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PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

The World's Daily Newspaper

Paris, Tuesday, April 7, 1998

No. 35,799

By 1803 a comage tem was established by on the one-frame whose weight in silver Piecing Together a \$70 Billion Deal mained unchanged in The same year the CITIBANCO TheTravelers Operating earnings for 1997, by sector piece appeared and a quoted on the Park Operating earnings for 1997, by sector quoted on the Park to exchange although & was withdrawn for the culation in 1914 ht World War I a cut crisis resulted in the killeration of token. Developed consumer banking Investment services Corporate banking jetons, which halfled b Pound when he across them in Nice Emerging-market consumer banking A sort of Jelon appeared recently when preparation for the on some French towns temporal. **Emerging-market** Property/ corporate banking insurance Total: \$4.15 billion World's Top Five Companies by Life insurance Travelers/Citicorp \$697.46 billion \$582.65 billion Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Consumer finance HSBC Holdings PLC 5393.67 billion Total: \$3.36 billion Chase Manhattan Corp. \$365,52 billion General Electric Corp. ARMIT MAY HERMANIAN Sources: Reuters, Company reports

A New No. 1: Financial Giants Unite

Citicorp and Travelers Plan to Merge in Record \$70 Billion Deal

By Mitchell Martin monal Herald Tribuni

NEW YORK -- Citicorp and Travelers Group said Monday they would merge in the largest corporate combination ever, creating the world's biggest financial-services company and offering banking, insurance and investment operations in 100 countries.

The companies described the deal as a merger, valuing it at \$140 billion, but the mechanism is essentially a stock swap, with Travelers paying \$70 billion for Citi's shares. That would make it nearly twice as big as the current record-holder, WorldCom's pending \$42 bil-lion offer for MCl Communications.

Travelers will issue 2.5 shares for each Citicorp share, and current stockholders of each company will own about half of the new enterprise.

With \$698 billion of assets, the merged enterprise would be the largest

financial-services company in the world, slightly larger than Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi. The new company, to be called Citigroup, would also be by far the most valuable in the business, with a market capitalization of about \$135 billion.

Its logo will retain the bank's familiar lettering followed by an umbrella, the

symbol used by Travelers.

Much of Wall Street liked the deal, and Citicorp's stock shot up \$35.625 to close at \$178.50, while Travelers rose \$11.3125 to close at \$73. The announcement, which was made before the market opened, helped the Dow Jones industrial average move convincingly through the 9,000 level. (Page 11)

The deal would give Travelers the ability to market mutual funds and insurance to Citicorp's retail customers while giving the bank access to an expanded client base of investors and insurance buyers. In this way, it is similar

The Dollar Monday & 4 P.M. previous close 1.8406 1.6663 1.6595 134.705 135.10 6.175 The Dow 9033.23 S&P 500

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to the deal early last year that joined Morgan Stanley Group Inc., a securities underwriter and asset manager, with Dean Witter Discover & Co., a retail stockbroker and credit-card purveyor.

But there are some major hurdles to be cleared. Travelers said it would apply to the Federal Reserve Board to become

a bank holding company. Current law would require it to get rid of some of its nonbanking holdings. In recent years, however, there has been much erosion of legislation designed to separate the banking and securities industries.

A key goal of the combination, John Reed, the Citicorp chairman, said at a news conference, would be to make investment products such as stocks and bonds available to middle-class customers around the world. Citicorp has built a global retail franchise alongside its worldwide corporate banking business, while Travelers is an investment and insurance conglomerate that last year bought Salomon Brothers Inc. to add to

its Smith Barney brokerage operations.
"We like the deal." said Tim Ghriskey, portfolio manager of the Dreyfus
Fund, which has stakes in Citicorp and Travelers. They are combining a

See DEAL, Page 6

against eurocratic denomination and how to deal with making Palestinians Link Hamas To Death of Bomb-Maker

Israel Welcomes Finding as Proof It Was Not Involved

By Doug Struck Washington Post Service

JERUSALEM — The Palestinian authorities declared Monday that members of the radical Hamas group, and not Israel, killed the bomb-maker Muhyiaddin Sharif in Ramallah last week, and said they had arrested five men involved. The announcement was greeted with relief in

Israel, where a high security alert has been in effect since Hamas threatened to retaliate for the killing with bombings. But members of Hamas's political leadership

rejected the assertion, and the group's militant wing again called for violent strikes against A Hamas leader, Abdelaziz Rantisi, said in

Gaza: "Hamas sticks to its charges that Israel was responsible." A statement from its military. wing called the Palestinian declaration "lies" and a "hopeless attempt" to save the stalled peace process.

The finding by the Palestinian Authority

lem that had threatened to bring more violence. The Israeli authorities warned Sunday that a terrorist attack would bring the implementation of peace accords to a halt and rule out further Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank.

Mr. Sharif's dismembered body was found after a car exploded March 29 in Ramallah, in the Palestinian-controlled West Bank. Palestinian suspicions initially focused on Israel after an autopsy revealed that Mr. Sharif had been shot

and killed and his body planted by the car.

The bomb-maker was suspected of arranging several devastating suicide bomb attacks against Israel, which has publicly acknowledged a policy of assassinating violent opponents. But on Monday the Palestinian Authority said that Mr. Sharif had been killed as a result of an internal power struggle within Hamas.

The Palestinian security chief, Jabril Rajoub, said: "These men were traitors, killers and criminals. They were affiliated with Hamas. They were colleagues who used to break bread with him."



Tayeb Abdel Rahim, aide to Yasser Arafat who announced the Palestinian Authority's heading to a meeting on Monday with a Hamas leader, Abdelaziz Rantisi.

Hashimoto **Vows to Spur** The Economy

Feeling Sting of Criticism, Japanese Leader Drafts \$120 Billion Spending Plan

By Mary Jordan

TOKYO - Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, stung by the worldwide criticism over what has been perceived as his slow response to Japan's economic problems, showed signs Monday of more aggressive leadership and indicated that he had no intention of resigning.

As early as Wednesday, Mr. Hashimoto is to outline to the public how he plans to spend \$120 billion to stimulate the economy, his aides said Monday night.

At that time, his aides said, he will acknowledge that he has shifted away from a stubborn course of fiscal restraint toward a huge program of pouring public money into the economy to get it rolling again.

Emergency meetings of lawmakers were held Monday to begin smoothing the way for a re-vision of the law that will allow for large-scale income tax cuts - a move that is being urged by

economists here and abroad.

The hope is that if Japanese consumers have more disposable income, they will start spending again and revive the desperate housing, car, clothing and department-store sectors. Consumer spending is at its lowest point in nearly 30 years and is a prime culprit in the economic

Until now, Mr. Hashimoto has been noticeably absent from the forefront of the debate over how to fix the Japanese economy; many analysts said it was because of his weak leadership and

the warring factions in his party. But Monday, both he and his aides indicated

that he would soon announce significant income-tax cuts and a record outlay, in real or inflationadjusted terms, on public works, and that he

See HASHIMOTO, Page 15

AGENDA

Courier Give U.S. **Davis Cup Victory**

Jim Courier recovered from a disastrous first set Monday to beat Marat Safin, of Russia, 0-6, 6-4, 4-6, 6-1, 6-4 and push the United States into the second round of the Davis Cup World Group.

Bad weather had delayed the last two singles matches until Monday at Stone Mountain, Georgia. In the first match, Yevgeni Kafelnikov beat Andre Agassi, 6-3, 6-0, 7-6 (7-3), ending Agassi's 16-match victorious streak in Davis Cup singles and tying the score at 2-2.

In the deciding match, Safin, an 18-year-old playing in the Davis Cup for the first time, made a dream start but Courier, 27, recovered.

Earlier article, Page 18

U.S. Bans Imports Of 58 Types of Guns

President Bill Clinton announced Monday a permanent ban on imports of 58 types of military-style assault weapons, blocking the entry of more than a million high-powered guns into the United States.

The action followed a 120-day Tressault Department review of im-

Treasury Department review of import permit applications for for-eign-made guns to determine whether they meet an exemption to laws allowing weapons that can be used for sport. Page 3.

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Guerrilla Groups Gathering Strength in Kosovo

By Chris Hedges

JABLANICA, Yugoslavia — A gaunt, nervous rebel with a scraggly black beard and a large hunting knife protruding from one of the pockets of his vest pulled a chrome-plated pistol from his belt as two dozen guerrillas ambled from nearby farmhouses to join him.

"This is our territory," he said. "We are through with these Albanian intellectuals in Pristina, with journalists, diplomats and everyone else. No one saved our women and children from slaughter. Now

it is up to us. The once-elusive guerrilla bands from the

ago numbered four or five guerrillas have quad-tupled in size, swelled in part by an infusion of new troops and weapons smuggled over the border from

There are also indications that the guerrillas have been joined by foreign mercenaries. The rapid and startling growth of the armed insurgency has prompted fears that the unrest in the province could

explode into the next Balkan war.

The guerrillas move within a few hundred yards of sandbagged police checkpoints and open fire frequently on passing police convoys. They wear

Kosovo Liberation Army, who are fighting for an independent state in this Serbian province, are suddenly ubiquitous. Rebel groups that a few weeks headed Albanian eagle and cradle new, well-oiled assault rifles. On the ridge tops above them other rebels, including adolescent boys, man machine

guns from newly dug trenches.

Assault rifles are casually slung over the shoulders of nearly every ethnic Albanian male in these mountains, including those in the cordonedoff Drenica triangle, about 40 kilometers (25 miles)

Many interviews with rebels over the last week suggest that the guerrillas have been joined by

See KOSOVO, Page 6

VOICES OF DISSENT ARE FADING IN 2 ASIAN COUNTRIES

In Malaysia, Tolerance **Goes Way of Economy**

By Thomas Fuller

KUALA LUMPUR—It has been 11 years since Lim Guan Eng sat in a windowless interrogation room with a bright light shining in his face and a policeman shouting in his ear every time he nodded off to

He recalls the dark blue walls padded with asbestos — to ensure that detainees did not commit suicide by knocking their heads against them. And he remembers the twisted expression of a furious in-terrogator who destroyed furniture in front of him with his bare hands to show his frustration with the pace of the questioning.

Mr. Lim, a leading member of Malaysia's parliamentary op-position, has reason to refresh his memories of 18 months in

See MALAYSIA, Page 7

detention. He might be heading back to jail soon.

Last week he was sentenced to another 18 months in prison for distributing a political pamphlet, a decision he has appealed to the country's highest court. If the appeal fails, he will be the first

Lim Guan Eng being escorted by a Malaysian policeman on the way to post bail after the court's ruling last week.

In Indonesia, Students Struggle 'on Their Own'

By Keith B. Richburg Washington Past Service

JAKARTA - Just a few weeks ago, with Indonesia in the throes of its deepest economic and political crisis in decades, the country's political opposition seemed briefly to have found its voice. President Suharto must step down, opposition spokesmen said. New leadership is needed to tackle the country's dire economic

straits, they insisted. They declared that three decades of rule by Mr. Suharto accompanied, they said, by corruption, nepotism and cronyism —

In a country where public dissent is rare and most forms of political expression are tightly constricted, such calls seemed like a new grassroots revolt. But then Mr. Suharto, 76, was unanimously reappointed by Parliament to a seventh five-year term, and just as suddenly as it appeared, Indonesia's opposition — isolated and unable to stir popular discontent — seemed to shrink from sight.

See INDONESIA, Page 7

American TV Is Pushing the Envelope of Pop-Culture Propriety

By Lawrie Mifflin

New York Times Service

NEW YORK - Like a child acting outrageously naughty to see how far he can push his parents, mainstream television in the United States this season is flaunting the most vulgar and explicit sex, language and behavior that it has ever brought into American homes. And, as sometimes happens with the spoiled child, the tactic works: Attention is

Ratings are high, few advertisers are rebelling against even the most provocative shows, and more and more parents seem to have given up resisting

their children in squabbles over television. Often, in a nation of two-income families, single parents and latchkey kids, children are left to watch

whatever they want. This season's wave of vulgarity has re-ignited opposition from some public figures who have long complained about television's influence on what they call family values. And some teachers and school principals have sent notes home, warning parents about certain shows, like the cartoon South Park." But the outcry seems fainter and

less widespread than it has in the past. "South Park," the most popular show on cable and the most talked-about one in all television,

Jesus and Satan, and converse with a talking pile of stool called "Mr. Hankey the Christmas Poo."

On the hottest new show among teenagers, WB's prime-time drama "Dawson's Creek," one of the lead characters, a high school boy, had a sexual affair with his English teacher; another, a football star, was mocked by some girls for being

"The Jerry Springer Show," a daytime talk show that has cranked up its formula of sexual berrayal followed by fisticuffs, has begun to challenge "Oprah," the queen of the genre, for the

features four dirty-talking third graders who poison Granddad, promote a boxing match between so popular with teenagers that MTV featured two "Jerry Springer Break" shows on its annual spring-break weekend in March.

After "South Park," the most popular series on

cable is professional wrestling, which appeals to children as much as to adults. Half the top 30 programs on cable during the first quarter this year were wrestling; the two wrestling shows rank among the top six favorite cable shows of teen-

And last week Howard Stern, the most infamous

See TV, Page 7

When Half of Afghanistan Is Kept in Seclusion

By Barbara Crossette New York Times Service

ALALABAD, Afghanistan — "The government can cover our faces,' said the intense young woman who had once been a teacher. "But undemeath, we still want our rights."

The woman was sent home from her job by the militant Islamic Taleban movement after it took control of much of this country in 1996 and decreed that women could no longer work and must be veiled in the allenveloping chador, or *burqa*, which leaves only a small patch of embroidered grillwork at eye level for navigating the outside world. She was one of about a dozen women who gathered at some risk in a private home near Kabul in recent days to meet Carol Bellamy, executive director of the United Nations Children's Fund.

Ms. Bellamy had just met several Taleban leaders to press for expanded women's rights, and she wanted to know what the women of Afghanistan wanted. "We want peace, and work, and the doors of schools to open for our girls," someone said.

The circle of teachers, a doctor and sev-

eral homemakers — sitting crosslegged on the carpeted floor of a mud-walled house - wanted to tell Ms. Bellamy, woman to woman and without inhibitions, what life was like in Afghanistan after decades of political upheaval, a Soviet invasion, a holy war, a civil war and now an era marked by enforcers of Islamic militancy riding around in jeeps and pickups beating up

In the midst of the session, when a man tried to deliver a message to Ms. Bellamy through an intermediary, she said firmly: "No men here! This is a meeting for wom-en." Faces all around the room broke into

"We are women, and you are also, and you can help us," another former teacher said. "Men don't listen to us."

But some men do seem to be listening. In the discussions Ms. Bellamy had with women in three provinces and through interviews conducted by female reporters who accompanied her, a strong theme emerged. And it was echoed later in conversations with men who, ironically, could not under their own rules crash a gathering of women who were not their wives or relatives. It was that "the Talebs," as they are known, are destroying an already wounded country, economically and socially. The repression of women, many of whom live like prisoners in their own homes, is only a harsh symptom of a larger

T IS A FEAR expressed in different ways by men and women, many of them fresh from years in refugee camps where they lived in some semblance of order, with schools and clinics to serve their needs. Women who say they came home to cast their lot with the Taleban as the best bet for the future feel that they are on the front lines of a battle for survival.

"With half the people of Afghanistan in purdah. ' a midwife said after a session with Ms. Bellamy at a hospital here in Jalalabad, "we can't find nurses and other hospital staff. We are headed for disaster. Purdah is the custom of secluding women, shielding them from any men who are not members of their family.

Several women said they had asked their husbands to talk to the Taleban about their families' hardships and the broader toll that

How can manufacturers

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April 20

BUSINESS TO e-BUSINESS:



Several women said they had asked their husbands to talk to the Taleban about their families' hardships and the broader toll of the movement's edicts. The Taleban brushed aside their fears, they said.

the movement's edicts is taking on Af-ghanistan. The Taleban brushed aside their fears, they said. Moreover, on the streets, men who call themselves "good Muslims" also live in terror of seemingly unprovoked attacks by Islamic enforcers and are easily

In Jalalabad recently, government of-ficials tried to prohibit female journalists from walking in the bazaar. They said that a Filipino woman was beaten up last year and that they did not want another such incident. They appeared unable to guarantee safety from the mobile punishment squads or mysterious kidnappers not linked to the Taleban who recently began to strike in the

Interviews with Taleban officials indicate that they are either unconcerned or not fully aware of the erosion of the authority that they were at first willingly granted by a conservative Muslim population tired of

Told that almost every woman ques-tioned by reporters ranked universal education as the country's most pressing need, officials said again and again that they recognized that girls had the right to go to school and that they had the duty to provide equal educational opportunities, but that they were incapable of meeting the demand. They cited a lack of teaching materials, and also said that there were not enough buildings to create separate schools for girls.
"We need more time," a regional gov-

ernor said. And a high-ranking official in Kabul said it was unfair to hold the Taleban responsible for the country's problems. 'The Russians should be blamed,'' he said, repeating a familiar explanation. Afghan

men and women do not often disagree with

the opinion that pro-Soviet Afghan governments had used education for indoctrination, or that a new curriculum will have to be created. But they see no progress toward that goal.

The doubts about where the Taleban, or elements of the movement, may be taking Afghanistan are also provoking open de-fiance of military conscription in some areas, where parents hide their boys from forced recruitment. A war in the north with remnants of the alliance that ruled the country from 1992 to 1996 drains precious resources, human and material.

Many families in this country of 21 million people have lost the income not only of women but also of men who died in fighting, were thrown out of jobs in purges of government offices or left in the flight of private businessmen and middle-class pro-

OYS AS WELL as girls are being denied education because many teachers were women who have not been replaced, and their male counterparts who remained in the schools are often not paid and therefore do not show up. When girls at one of dozens of "home schools" springing up around the country with the help of foreign foundations or aid programs were asked if their fathers approved of their attending these classes, they

shouted, "Yes! Yes!" Their teacher came back to her mudbrick village among the green fields of rural Laghman Province after working in a refugee camp in Pakistan. She said she and three other former teachers set up her school in a family home because they could no longer work and girls could no longer go to government schools. The school, one of several hundred supported by a Swedish nonprofit organization, teaches basic literacy and the Koran, which Muslim women have begun to study to defend themselves from what they see as the misinterpretations of self-styled fundamentalists

"Maybe in the future they will have a chance to work outside," she said of the two dozen little girls seated on the earthen floor. "But whatever happens, an education will make them better people in their

The world the Taleban movement imposed on the women of Afghanistan is not without its paradoxes. Everywhere women say they are safer. The era of the mujahidin. the gangs of holy warriors who drove the Soviet Army from the country in 1992 but then proved incapable of governing it, was marked by lawlessness that fell hard on

Rape was common. There was often shooting in the streets by day and armed robbery at night. Checkpoints set up by rival movements, often little more than gangs, fleeced people coming and going from one part of Kabul to another or on

All of this, Afghans and foreign aid workers say, is gone in areas controlled by the Taleban, now amounting to two-thirds of the country. "But we have exchanged the rockets that fell on our houses from the sky for the rockets that hit our stomachs every time the prices go up," an Afghan businessman said.

In recent months there has been some relaxation in rules governing the behavior of women, though no one seems to know for certain if this reflects official thinking or merely dwindling zeal.

Met Victoria Detention of Mayor Seems to Highlight Iran Political Split

DUBAI — The detention of Mayor Gholam-Hossein Karbaschi of Tehran on graft charges has brought into the open a struggle between moderates and conservatives brewing in Iran since the election of President Mohammed Kharami, according to analysts.

Iranian analysts as well as some of the media said Monday that Mr. Karbaschi's detention on Saturday went beyond the legal issues and highlighted a national dispute among the "This is not a minor investigation into a city mayor,"

Jahangeer Behrouz, a Tehran-based political analyst, said by telephone. "This is a national issue which is part of the battle between the right and the left in Iran's government. "The conservatives sent a message through the judiciary.

The message is that we have power, too.' The judiciary denies the charges, pointing to the conviction of several of Mr. Karbaschi's top aides on graft charges since last year. The moderates have questioned the legality of some of those convictions by referring to charges of torture and mistreatment raised by the convicted officials.

Mr. Karbaschi, a close ally of Mr. Khatami's, was detained following a court appearance on graft and mismanagement charges. The court ordered the mayor to be held without ball

for up to one month pending further investigation. Newspapers said Monday that his case would go to trial in

about three weeks.
Supporters of the mayor say he was targeted by the conservative-led judiciary because of his open backing of Mr. Khatami in elections last May, when the moderate Shiite cleric soundly defeated conservative opponents. "The right-wing forces

This is a national issue which is part of the battle between the right and the left.'

Kul

have expended a lot of energy on bringing Karbaschi down since the election," said Amid Naeini, editor of Payam-e-Emrouz, a moderate monthly

magazine.

"Karbaschi's detention is aimed at imposing pressure on the government of President Mohammed Khatami and weakening his government," Faezeh Hashemi, a pro-Khatami member of Parliament who is the daughter of former President Hashemi Rafsanjani, told the daily Iran News.

Conservative members of Parliament defended the decision on Monday, saying that the mayor should not be above the law. "If Karbaschi is guilty and the case has been proven, the he should be dealt with and punished free from any factionar and political pressure," Hossein Ali Qassemzadeh told Iran

The analysts said the issue posed a major test for Mr. Khatami, a moderate who has adopted a nonconfrontational policy toward his conservative opponents, who still wield

"If this situation is not resolved, we could see a full-blown political crisis," Mr. Naeini said. Iran's cabinet condemned the decision, saying Mr. Karbaschi would continue to work from his jail cell.

U.S. Hopes Iran Will Not 'Misinterpret' Detention The Clinton administration said Sunday night it hoped that Iran did not misinterpret the detention of Iranian wrestlers by the immigration authorities when the athletes entered the United States this week to take part in a tournament, The New York Times reported from Washington.

The group, the first Iranian sports team to visit the United States since the fall of the shah in 1979, was detained for two hours, photographed and fingerprinted as it entered the country at O Hare International Airport in Chicago: They were o. 1262 their way to take part in the World Cup of Freestyle Wrestling () = . at Oklahoma State University.

We certainly hope that this procedure is not misinterpreted as a sign of diminished interest in promoting such exchanges because it is not," an administration official, who insisted on not being identified, said.

James Foley, deputy spokesman for the State Department said Sunday night that federal law required such procedures for "nonimmigrant" visitors, mainly tourists who are not government officials, from Iran, Iraq, Libya and Sudan. Mr. Foley said he hoped the delay and the procedures would not disrupt the tentative steps that the United States and Iran have been taking to warm relations.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Pilots at All Nippon Airways Strike

TOKYO (Bloomberg) — All Nippon Airways, Japan's second-largest airline, said its pilots went on strike Monday to

oppose a 15 percent cut in pay.

Two flights between Kansai International Airport and Rome will be canceled Tuesday. On Wednesday, 10 flights to the United States, Hong Kong and Europe may be canceled. The earliest the pilots will return to work is Thursday, when pilots at Japan Airlines, the country's biggest airline, and Japan Air System plan to strike.

French Museums Open for Easter

PARIS (AFP) - France's national museums will be open Easter Sunday, with many also open on Monday, a holiday. In Paris, the Orsay Museum of Impressionist art will be closed Monday, as will be the

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Versailles chateau and the Trianon. They are always closed Mondays. The Louvre will be open throughout the long weekend

but will close earlier than usu-al, at 6 P.M., on Monday, the National Museums management said.

Olympic Strikes ATHENS (Reuters)

Middle East

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Olympic Airways flight at-tendants said Monday that they would stage 24-hour strikes on Tuesday and Thursday to protest government restructuring plans.

Attendants from Olympic Aviation, the carrier's domestic subsidiary, said they would ioin the walkout Tuesday.

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NORWAY	NOK	832	390	53%
SINGAPORE	5.5	161	22	40%
: SPAIN	PTAS	11,700	5,000	57°.
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حكذا من الاعل

detention of Mayor Gholam Hose, a graft charges has brought into the coderates and conservatives breaker of President Mohammed Klasse

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> Jackson said in a televised interview. "The haunting question is how deeply did the assassination go into our govern-

Away From **Politics**

• A redesigned \$20 bill, intended to be harder to counterfeit, will be made public on May 20 and put into circulation next fall, the U.S. Treasury Department announced A redesigned \$100 bill was issued in March 1996, and a new \$50 bill in (Reuters)

 Tens of thousands of birds migrating through Nebraska have been killed by an illness that has spread quickly because icy ponds and lakes forced geese and ducks to crowd into just a few unfrozen wetlands. As of the middle of last week, the Fish and Wildlife Service said, workers had picked up 22,000 dead birds, most of which were killed by a disease called avian cholera.

 Unionized parking garage attendants have ratified a salary agreement with one of the District of Columbia's largest parking garage companies, averting a possi-ble walkout that would have been a nightmare for Washington-area commuters. (AP)

The Highligh Over Nuclear Dump, Hazy Cloud of Green By Joby Warrick Washington Pust Service CLIVE, Utah — Deep in the Great or of the Poesert. 40 miles from the Clive. Take Desert. 40 miles from the Clive. The poesert of the profits of the pro

to a Utah regulator

mucks arrive as the sun climbs. adding to the procession of haulers of radioactive waste that snake for a mile across the sand.

Delays can stretch for hours or even days here, for this is the home of Envirocare, the only private dump in America that handles the U.S. government's nuclear waste. Since 1993, more than 14 million cubic feet (420,000 cubic meters) of lightly radioactive dirt and junk from the Department of Energy has been entombed at this isolated spot - mostly because there was nowhere else for it

Envirocare has won contracts worth as much as \$250 million from the Department of Energy alone and is projected to receive \$350 million more from the department over the next five years. In exchange, the dump has given the federal government something that it needs very badly: a reliable way to get rid of mountains of low-level radioactive debris without breaking budgets or triggering lawsuits from states and communities near contaminated sites around the country.

But this mutually beneficial relationship has become clouded by questions of impropriety that threaten

Clinton Seeks

New Review

Of Evidence

In King Case

WASHINGTON - President

Bill Clinton has asked the Justice

Department to consider a request

from the family of the Reverend

Martin Luther King Jr. to open a

new investigation of the civil

rights leader's assassination 30

Rahm Emanuel, a senior ad-

viser to the president, said that Mr. Clinton would convey that

news to Coretta Scott King, who

last week made a public request to the president to appoint a commission to examine what she said

was "new evidence" regarding

her husband's killing.

Mr. Emanuel said Attorney

General Janet Reno would de-

cide how to proceed after ex-

A congressional committee

and several law enforcement

agencies have concluded that Mr. King was killed on April 4,

1968, by James Earl Ray, a

lifelong criminal, acting alone.

Mr. Ray confessed to the crime

The Reverend Jesse Jackson

has also called on the Justice

Department to investigate

whether the government played a

ly involved in destroying Martin Luther King Jr.," Mr. Jackson said. "Now, did they do it di-

rectly or were they a part of hir-

ments Sunday came a day after

the 30th anniversary of King's

death, said he believed that Mr.

Ray was not solely responsible.

the money, nor the mobility to have done it by himself," Mr.

Ray neither had the motive.

Mr. Jackson, whose com-

ing someone, we don't know."

'Our government was active-

role in Mr. King's death.

but almost immediately recan-

amining developments.

years ago.

care's founder and owner, acknowledged paying \$600,000 to Larry Anderson, who was then director of the Utah Radiation Control Division and the state regulator responsible for the as extortion, saying that he feared Mr. dump's license and safety.

mains in dispute, and there is no evidence so far of serious safety problems at the dump. But the payments raise questions of have raised quesimpropriety. tions about the validity of Enviro-

state's response to the dump's history of safety violations - which include chunks of radioactive material falling nani to step down temporarily as from boxcars and top managers scoring zero on radiation competency

Perhaps more important, the congovernment's near-dependency on a single private dump, and how it has responded to Envirocare's problems. A federal grand jury in Salt Lake City is investigating the payments to Mr. Anderson.

According to court documents, Mr. Anderson approached Mr. Semnani in 1986 and offered to serve as a private

WASHINGTON — The Supreme

Court cleared the way Monday for the

forced release by the tobacco in-dustry of 39,000 secret documents in

The court rejected an emergency

request in which the cigarette makers claimed that most of the documents

are privileged information that

A Minnesota trial judge had

The order means the documents ---

By John M. Broder

New York Times Service

Clinton announced on Monday a per-

manent ban on imports of 58 types of military-style assault weapons, blocking

the entry of more than a million high-

of import permit applications for foreign-made guns to determine whether they

meet an exemption to laws allowing

The Treasury Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms found that

the 58 assault-type guns cannot be clas-

sified as sporting weapons and therefore are banned under a 1968 gun-control law.

Addressing his remarks to gun makers,

the president said, "You can read the fine

print in our law and our regulations all you

want, and you can keep making minor

changes, but we're going to do our best to

keep our people alive and stop you from making a dollar in the wrong way."

way for months, aides said Mr. Clinton wanted to dramatize the government's

action after the schoolyard killings in

Jonesboro, Arkansas, last month while he

Aides said that Mr. Clinton was

was on his six-nation tour of Africa.

Although the review has been under

weapons that can be used for sport.

The action followed a 120-day review

powered guns into the United States.

WASHINGTON -- President Bill

totaling some 200,000 pages -- must

be surrendered to lawyers for Min-

are seeking punitive damages.

a Minnesota trial.

should stay secret.

ordered their release.

acknowledged making the payments of \$600,000 in cash, gold coins and a condominium in a ski resort.

But he characterized the payments Anderson would cause problems for The nature of the payments re- his company or even shut him down.

He did not report the alleged crime Payments that went to authorities because he feared he would not be believed, a spokesnant said.

Eventually, the care's license and the adequacy of the Department of Energy, which supplies most of the waste, cut a deal with Envirocare that forced Mr. Sempresident but guaranteed that the company could continue to receive waste and bid on new contracts.

Department managers strongly detroversy has focused attention on the fend their response. Freezing the shipments based on mere allegations, they say, would surely have exposed the government to litigation and long delays in the cleanup of scores of hazardous waste sites around the

But a federal judge, ruling in a related Texas case, said the policies are only mildly radioactive but still too that allowed Envirocare to retain its

Ruling Is Setback for Tobacco Firms

39,000 documents public.

The order does not make the

Tobacco industry lawyers had ar-

gued that release of the documents

would unfairly harm their clients in

the Minnesota case and also in "hun-

disappointed with the high court's one-sentence rejection of their re-

quest for an emergency stay, saying

The court also acted Monday on

Defense attorneys said they were

dreds of other pending cases."

that it set a bad precedent.

these other issues:

virtual monopoly suggest that "something is amiss" at the department. "It may be a case of incompetence, or it may be something far worse," said Judge Joe Kendall of

Meanwhile, the loss of Envirocare's services - the thing government officials sought most to avoid - may already be occurring. An injunction issued by Judge Kendall has temporarily frozen the awarding of new department contracts to Envirocare, stalling the cleanup of 1 million tons of contaminated waste at a federal plutonium production facility in Fernald, Ohio.

Federal officials are bracing for the possibility that the dump might be sold or closed, an act that could force government agencies handling the cleanup to scramble to find places to put the 2 million cubic yards of waste projected to go to Utah over the next lew years.

As the successor to the government's Cold War-era Atomic Energy Commission, the Department of Energy has inherited the task of cleaning up the radioactive refuse from uranium mines, munitions facilities and other sites around the country.

The most dangerous, highly radioactive material will end up in bettersealed repositories built to last thousands of years. But in sheer volume, the bulk of the waste is made up of construction material, mineral ores and contaminated soil - wastes that "hot" for burial in ordinary dumps.

and put the case on a track expected to

yield a decision by late June or early

July. The case will be argued June

lawsuit against Domino's Pizza Inc.

by 11 franchise holders who accused

it of monopolizing the market for

• It let stand a ruling that said the

former Panamanian ruler Manuel

Antonia Noriega had received a fair

trial when he was tried and convicted

· It refused to revive an antitrust

Energy Secretary Federico Pena, who announced his resignation Monday.

Pena Quits Cabinet Post any federal funds. Rocky Mountain Presuress Inc. of Denver, sugarcane growers

WASHINGTON — Energy Secretary Federico Pena, the highest-ranking Hispanic in the Clinton administration, announced his resignation Monday, citing "personal and family" reasons.

Mr. Pena, who served as Transportation Secretary in Mr. Clinton's first term, submitted his letter of resignation to President Bill Clinton on Monday.

cabinet, the time is now right," Mr. Pena said

in a memo sent to department employees. Mr. Pena, 51, had planned to leave Washington at the end of Mr. Clinton's first term

but stayed on as energy secretary. Mr. Pena said he planned to depart June

Bill of Hidden Favors

WASHINGTON - You will not find Chick-fil-A Inc. named in the \$217 billion highway bill that the House passed last will say "closed Sundays." week. But there is a favor in the bill for the Atlanta-based restaurant chain and several more salted away for other companies and

There is more to the legislation, it seems, than the billions earmarked for roads and bridges in members' districts. It contains provisions that may translate into profits or cost savings for various special interests,

in Louisiana and truckers in Maine, for example, are seeking exceptions to federal truck weight limits.

A more controversial safety issue, a provision that would block federal inspectors from using "global positioning satellite" records to check on whether truckers are driving too many hours, was pulled from

the bill at the last minute. The Chick-fil-A provision is found in "There is never a perfect time for a decision like this, but I believe that after five-food business" being eligible to be inand-a-half years as a member of the Clinton cluded on highway signs even though it is open only six days a week.

The company's problem, according to spokesman Don Perry, is that Transportation Department regulations say restaurants should be open seven days a week to be included on interstate highway signs. The chain, which has 775 locations, and is expanding, has always been closed on Sun-

days.

If the provision passed by the House becomes law, Chick-fil-A will pay for the signs, which already are allowed under state law in Georgia, Florida and Texas. They

Quote/Unquote

Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, after failing to find "a magic beer and chocolate diet" and losing 30 pounds on a regime of low-fat, low-sodium food and exercise: "What I can report with great sadness is even though their requests do not call for that diet and exercise work."

nesota, and Blue Cross and Blue tor, Kenneth Starr, to get notes taken Shield of Minnesota. The state and by the lawyer for the White House aide Vincent Foster during a meeting the insurance company are suing cigarette makers to recover \$1.77 billion shortly before Mr. Foster's suicide in that they say was spent to treat smoking-related illnesses. They also

U.S. Permanently Bans Imports

Of 58 Types of Assault Weapons

request for expedited consideration

The justices granted Mr. Starr's call

gunfire of four children and a teacher in

his home state and wanted to make a

meaningful public statement on gun vi-

olence soon after his return from Africa.

trade group representing weapons im-

porters assailed the presidential decision

as a further encroachment on the rights of

gun owners. They promised to seek relief

in Congress and in the courts. Anti-gun

groups said the decree would not go far

"We're not happy," said Tanya Metaksa, chief lobbyist for the rifle as-

"He's done exactly what he said he would do — bend the law as far as he

could to ban as many guns as he could. These guns were modified to meet the

criteria of his own gun ban and now he

says the criteria are not good enough and

Ms. Metaksa said that thousands of

weapons had already been imported and

paid for and had been stored in U.S.

Customs warehouses awaiting the Treas-

ury Department's ruling on their legal-

"Hundreds of importers will be com-pletely out of pocket," Ms. Metaksa said.

can return a shirt to Macy's.

'You can't return a firearm the way you

he is modifying them.

The National Rifle Association and a

for drug trafficking. • It agreed to speed its study of the • It turned away a legal battle beattempt by the Whitewater prosecutween mail-order "wine clubs" and

pizza ingredients.

states over regulating the sale of alcoholic beverages. The court, without comment, let stand rulings that rejected Florida's effort to sue in fedcall "illegal interstate bootleg-ging." eral court to stop what state officials

Bankgesellschaft Berlin: 1997 Annual Results

Objective for 1998: Formation of a major financial group in Berlin and North Germany

Reduction in the risk exposure of our loan portfolio

By making strategic decisions on our future orientation in new business and takingorganisational and technical precautions, we have improved the risk structure of our Group and made it more transparent

for control purposes. Nevertheless, in 1997 we Berlin and North Germany have made sufficient of taxed hidden reserves for general banking risks rather than making allocations to disclosed reserves. This enabled us to replenish our capital assets, which had been drawn down in the previous year because of the need for higher risk provisions. For the 1997 financial year, we can report a Group operating profit after risk provisions of DM670 million; this is up 88.7% compared to the previous year.

Unchanged dividend

We will propose payment of an unchanged dividend of DM1.10 per share to the Shareholders' Meeting on 5 June 1998.

Extract from our Group Annual Accounts

(in DM m)

Total assets

Customer loans

Customer deposits and

securitised liabilities

Net commission income

Net interest income

Risk provisions

Operating profit

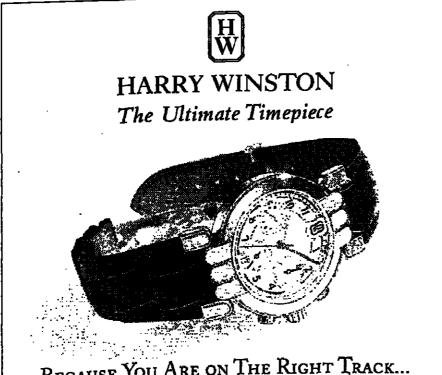
Expansion of the Group

In addition to continuing efforts to improve profitability, 1998 will be characterised by the forthcoming entry of NORD/LB into the Bankgesellschaft Berlin Group. The preparations for the formation of a joint, major financial group in

again had to make larger provisions for bad progress to enable this project to be implementand doubtful debt than originally planned. Since cd in the course of the 1998 financial year. This the overall lending climate remains difficult, we will give Bankgesellschaft Berlin the structure gave preference in this context to the formation and strength it needs to succeed in the competitive environment of the German and European banking market.

> We would be pleased to send you our 1997 Annual Report on request.

Bankgesellschaft Berlin AG **Corporate Communications** Alexanderplatz 2 For shareholders: 10178 Berlin Investor Relations Tel.: +49 30 245-65453 Tel.: +49 30 245-66388/89 Fax: +49 30 245-65112 Fax: +49 30 245-66393 http://www.bankgesellschaft.de E-mail: IR@bankgesellschaft.de



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Don't Let the Skirt Fool You, He's Thailand's Best-Known Kick Boxer | By Joseph Kahn | Non loui There Series | Dozer who cross-dresses, and that at- have aged beyond their teams described. | By Joseph Kahn | Non loui There Series | Dozer who cross-dresses, and that at- have aged beyond their teams described.

Ven York Times Service

BANGKOK - Muhammad Ali floated like a butterfly. Mike Tyson - bites ears. Parinya Kiatbusaba, Thailand's kick-boxing sensation, pecks on the cheek.

In a recent bout, Mr. Parinya, 16, overwhelmed his rival with the swooping kicks, flying elbows and stinging uppercuts that compose the Thai kick boxer's arsenal. Then, arms raised as he pranced around the ring. Mr. Parinya planted a victory kiss on his opponent's sweaty cheek, lipstick gloss lingering there for a moment before the panicked opponent's fingers scraped it away.

It is hard to fight beautiful men." said the tall, big-boned boxer, whose dyed hair is a few shades shy of his blazing red fingernails. "I can easily knock them out. On the other hand, I

want to hug and kiss them."
That kiss sealed Mr. Parinya's status as Thailand's best-known kick boxer. His prowess in the ring is one reason. He has won 20 of 22 matches, all but

two by knockout. But most people know Mr. Parinya for another sort of conflict. He is a kick in a country famed for its tolerance.

Unlike most of its East Asian neighbors, Thailand is not a closet society and people have no problem with transvestites. Men outfitted and adorned as women are hosts of talk shows,

live in all-gay housing projects and march in military parades.

Mr. Parinya's success has become a cross-dressing cause celebre.

Transvestites packed the stands for his recent Bangkok match, giving Lumpini Stadium a record crowd of

His rise has helped erase the memory of a slight two years ago, when two cross-dressing volleyball stars were barred from joining the Thai national team, on the ground that they would give country a poor international im-

But it seems that even Thais are fascinated by the sight of a transvestite competing in kick boxing, a no-limbsbarred martial art that requires such flexibility and fearlessness that few who

into the ring.

Thailand's ultimate symbol of masculinity, kick boxing is a year-round pastime that offers provincial boys a

chance for modest wealth. It is also at the core of military cul-

Unlike most of its East Asian neighbors, Thailand is not a closet society and people have no problem with transvestites. But his success has become a cause celebre.

> ture. The sport was derived from 16thcentury hand-to-hand combat techniques, and kick boxers usually leave the ring bloodied. The Royal Thai Army remains the sport's official custodian. Mr. Parinya revels in the contradic-

> tion.
> "I have the body of a great fighter,"
> he said, fingering a purple pendant during a recent interview. "But in my heart I am a woman.

Between fights, he retreats to Chonburi, a gritty industrial city along Thailand's southeastern coast, where a trainees, all in their teens.

On practice day, a group of boxers, shirtless and dripping under a tin roof in high heat, have begun their workouts.

Sparring, they thrust pointed bare feet at the necks of trainers, who use heavy leather mitts as shields. Grunts fill the air. Boxers hop on one leg while the other thwacks the mitt in flurries of five or six.

Coaches command "Again! Too soft! Again!" until the boxers fall back. exhausted.

Mr. Parinya arrives late. He is wearing several rings, a black T-shirt and a clasp to hold his clumpy hair down. He sashays over to a fulllength mirror where others are measuring bobs and weaves. Mr. Parinya preens, dabbing his bright lips with a tissue, smoothing his eyebrows, tucking

in his shirttails. In the ring, his kicks are tireless, his punches sharp.

Some boxers have just one or two weapons," said his coach, Shane Muangchon, standing ringside. "Par-

young boxer's specialty is a long. sideways kick that rises a bit above the neck, then hooks down for extra force.

After practice, Mr. Parinya sits impatiently for an interview, flipping through a comic book and answering questions in shy monosyllables.

Do fellow camp members harass him? "No." Why does he wear makeup to sweltering workouts? "I like to look beamiful.

Mr. Parinya insists that his parents, litchi farmers in the north, are relaxed about his cross-gender experimentation. His father often took him — he was initially a reluctant spectator - to daylong boxing matches at the county

Instincts aside, Mr. Parinya developed a boxer's lithe build. Standing 5 feet 7 inches (1.70 meters) and weighing 142 pounds (64 kilograms), he is classed as a heavyweight by wispy Thai stan-

"I think my father always dreamed that I would be a boxing star," he said. It was cross-dressing that finally made him one. Although Thais are on the whole easygoing about transvest-

·He was lured into more than a few fights, and soon learned how to win, "A person teases me only once," he boas-

But Mr. Parinya's boxing skills alone would not have qualified him for the attention he has received of late. His first match in Bangkok, scene of the consolation kiss, was replayed on local television for days, earning him attention that even top kick boxers can only imagine.

Not surprisingly, he has doubters Rivals suggest that his success has been hyped because promoters covet the crowds he attracts.

But his streak of victories continues burt Tell- Yell: Last week he took on his first foreign opponent, a 19-year-old Danish fighter Dennis Koebke, and sent the bigger Dane to the canvas three times with leg sweeps. The fight ended after Mr. Parinya unleashed a series of flying elbow attacks that left his opponent's face splattered with blood.

And for his critics, he has a simple answer. "Don't be distracted by my looks," he said "This smile has knocked out 18 boys."

Pakistan Tests Medium-Range Missile

The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Pakistan successfully tested a medium-range missile Monday capable of reaching deep into neighboring India.

The new missile has a range of 1,500 kilometers (930 miles), a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. It is believed capable of carrying a nuclear warhead. We have developed this in terms of

our own security needs." said Altaf Tariq, the Foreign Ministry spokes-

"I don't think it is specific to any-one." he said. "Rather it is Pakistandefense specific.

When asked whether the newest missile in Pakistan's arsenal could deliver a nuclear weapon, Mr. Tariq said: "Any-

thing which flies can carry any kind of and development stage."

India already has deployed its me-

A spokesman for the Indian Foreign Ministry said in New Delhi, "As of now, we are awaiting the full facts in the matter and will make a comment at a

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since the Asian subcontinent gained its independence from Britain in 1947.

India already has tested a similar surface-to-surface missile, which is also believed capable of delivering a nuclear weapon. When India tested its missile, Pakistan warned that a missile arms race on the subcontinent could result.

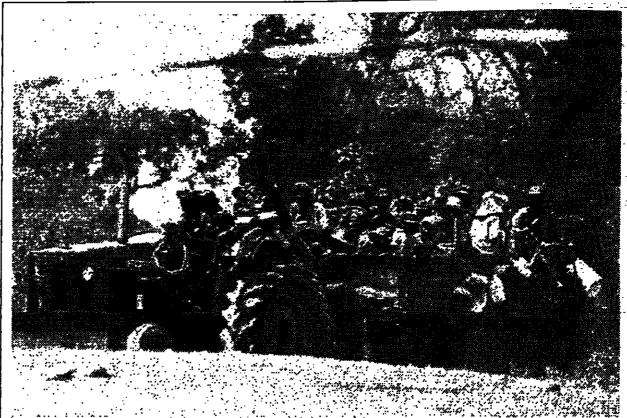
It was not immediately clear when Pakistan would deploy its newest missile. Mr. Tariq said "it's in the research

dium-range missiles on its border with Pakistan, something Mr. Tariq said "we are very unhappy with.

Both countries say their nuclear programs are for peaceful purposes.

India's new Hindu nationalist government, sworn in this month following elections, has promised to reassess India's nuclear weapons program with an eye to possibly declaring India a nuclear

Pakistan's missile is named after a 12th century Afghan emperor, Ghauri, who attacked India and defeated a Hindu prince, Prithvi. Prithvi is the name India has given to its medium-



CAMBODIANS ON MOVE — Some of the thousands of civilians who took refuge in Thailand last week being moved on Monday. Thai Army sources said Khmer Rouge guerrillas had recaptured the northern town of Anlong Veng from guerrilla defectors, but Cambodian officials in Phnom Penh denied the reports.

Announcements

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BRIEFLY

Ramos Pardons a Movie Star

MANILA - President Fidel Ramos pardoned a leading movie star Monday who was sent to prison in 1994 after he

was caught carrying unauthorized handguns and rifles. The movie star. Robin Padilla, was one of 67 prisoners conditionally pardoned by Mr. Ramos. Two others were given full pardons, while 135 were given lighter prison terms, a presidential statement said.

Mr. Padilla, who campaigned extensively for Mr. Ramos in the 1992 elections, was sentenced to 18 to 21 years in prison. He was caught with the weapons when the police stopped him after he drove away from a traffic accident.

Sonia Gandhi Takes Party Helm

NEW DELHI — Sonia Gandhi formally took over the Congress (I) Party on Monday, promising to rejuvenate the organization that governed the country for more than 40 years. To bursts of applause, hundreds of delegates of the All India Congress Committee ratified Mrs. Gandhi's appointment as

president of Congress, now an opposition party.
"I am aware this is a heavy responsibility," said Mrs. Gandhi, who had lived in seclusion after her husband, Rajiv, a former prime minister, died at the hands of a suicide bomber in 1991. 'It's my promise: I will work with dedication."

Pakistan Mercy Petition Granted

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Pakistan pardoned a local employee of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency on Monday who had been sentenced to 10 years' hard labor for persuading a Pakistan Air Force officer to carry drugs to the United States. A government statement said Chief Marshal Parvaiz Mehdi, acting on a mercy petition from the employee's wife, ordered the remission of the remainder of Ayaz Baloch's sentence. Pakistani policemen arrested Mr. Baloch, a U.S. Embassy employee in Islamabad, in April 1997 and charged him with "drug trafficking and anti-state activities." Mr. Baloch denied the charges.

Mr. Baloch's arrest came after American officials charged a Pakistani military officer in April 1997 with carrying two kilograms of heroin in a Pakistani Air Force Boeing 707 that he had flown to the United States to collect spare parts for U.S.-supplied F-16 fighters. Islamabad denied that Mr. Baloch's detention was retaliation for the arrest and ignored Washington's demand for his release.

Taiwan F-16s Get Wrong Signals

TAIPEI - The Taiwanese Air Force will have to spend millions of dollars to replace communications systems on new F-16 jet fighters because of interference from cellular phones.

a newspaper reported Monday.

Phone conversations are frequently picked up and broadcast over the planes' radios, and interference can also block contact with flight controllers, the United Evening News reported. It quoted a pilot as saying that the ARC-164 analog a UHF transceivers used on the planes were inferior to systems on F-16s sold to other countries by the United States. Their replacement will cost more than 1 billion Taiwan dollars (\$31 million), the paper said.

Indonesia Soldier Shot in Timor

DILI. Indonesia - Attackers believed to be pro-independence rebels killed an Indonesian soldier, his wife and daughter in the disputed territory of East Timor, witnesses said

Private Amandio Coreia, his wife and 15-year-old daughter were shot and killed Saturday at their home in Baucau, a jo coastal town 120 kilometers (75 miles) east of East Timor's capital, Dili. A resident in Baucau said the attackers were believed to be three members of Fretilin, a rebel group fighting Indonesian rule in the former Portuguese colony.

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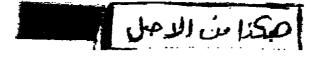
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BRIDGET



Kick Box — Citizen Peacemakers in Cyprus Persist in Trying to Bridge a 24-Year Chasm Parinya easy to and straight to the Cypriot government is threatening to Cypriots—at a time when there is no Cypriots—at a time when the cypriots—at a time w Person reases me only once he

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But his stream of victories are opponent, a 19-car-old Danish Danish Koenke and on the last to the care to the care as three times. Dane to the carry of three limes to the carry of three limes to the carry of the limes to the carry of the limes to the carry of the limes to the li Dane to the contras three inner to sweeps. The fight ended there is enter of the inner the contrast of the con affacts that less the officers splantered with blood of ponent And for his critic, he has a sanswer. Don't he distracted he hand that the knocked out is box.



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NICOSIA, Cyprus -- Chris Sofroniou joined an encounter group for young Greek and Turkish Cypriots last year with a lofty goal: to help reunite this most rigidly partitioned of states. He had a personal mission as well.

Seeing a chance to reclaim the home he had fled as a child in wartime, the 27year-old Greek Cypriot student persuaded a Turkish Cypriot in the group to help him sneak into the Turkish-held town of Morphou.

With a map drawn by his grandmother, Mr. Sofromou found the house. He pressed his face against a window; the Turks who live there weren't home.

it's a museum now. He made a video recording and brought it home.

"It was like a dream," he told a meeting of the U.S.-sponsored group. "I felt the Greekness of the place. It made me angry but determined to fight, in a peaceful way, to get justice done and help our people return to their

Twenty-four years after war split their Mediterranean island into two "ethnically cleansed" camps, ordinary Cypriots are talking through the barbed wire. But so far, the exchange shows how stubborn and deeply rooted the conflict remains.

Even young Cypriots who rebel

that built it: Greek-speaking Christians governing 600,000 people in the south want a reintegrated society; Turkishspeaking Muslim leaders claim a separate ministate for 200,000 inhabitants

in the north.

Outside mediators are stepping up efforts to revive peace talks between Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders. The United Nations secretary-general, Kofi Annan, failed in one attempt last month, and the U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke shuttled between the two sides over the weekend with no success

But while the high-level talks have gone nowhere since last summer, the debates among ordinary citizens are in-

'Our mentality is close to the European mentality," Mr. Sofroniou told the student group. "Look how the French and the Germans slaughtered each other in World War II. They are reconciled and can live in each other's countries.

Erdem Erginel, a 25-year-old Turkish

Cypriot, disagreed. Conflict resolution," he said, "may work in Europe, where reconciliation is a valid concept, but not here. The political culture and mentality in this part of the world is not suitable for minorities. Without our own state, the Greeks will

As the stalemate endures, the Greek

siles to neutralize the Turkish Air Force. Turkey, which has 35,000 troops de-fending the Turkish Cypriot side, says it would knock out the missiles with preemptive airstrikes.

In this climate, the citizen peacemakers meet lukewarm tolerance from Greek Cypriot officials and suspicion and hostility from the Turkish Cypriot side. In December, as they have a dozen times before. Turkish Cypriot leaders suspended all permits for contact between the two sides. Previous shutdowns have lasted up to four months.

Still, the movement is a persistent force, if only because the idea of a physical barrier dividing any place, esmore Berlin Wall, no more Green Line

in Beirut — as an anachronism. To reach their neutral meeting point in the Ledra Palace Hotel, Cypriots must pass Nicosia's main checkpoint into the buffer zone — a jagged alley of vacant, booby-trapped shops, rusting barbed wire and oil drum barricades - and revisit the raw emotions of the 1974

At the checkpoint's north gate, guarded by Turkish Cypriot police, is an exhibit of black-and-white photographs showing atrocities committed by Greek Cypriot militias on ethnic Turks between 1963 and 1974.

At the south gate, 500 meters away, is a travel advisory in Greek: "Beyond this checkpoint is an area of Cyprus still occupied by Turkish troops since their invasion in 1974. The invaders expelled 180,000 Cypriots of Greek origin.
"Enjoy what is left of our located

"Enjoy what is left of our looted heritage and homes."

The United Nations-mediated peace talks since the war, which also forced 45,000 ethnic Turks to move north of the divide and left about 6,700 people dead or missing on both sides, have repeatedly stumbled over one overriding question: whether Greeks and Turks can mix better than oil and water.

Turkish Cypriot leaders, backed by Turkey's troops, insist on a "confederation" of two sovereign states—confirmation of the de facto Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus that only Turkey recognizes. Anything less, they contend, will overwhelm their minority

population. The Greek-ruled Republic of Cyprus, with an economic advantage and the rest of the world's recognition, demands a jointly ruled "bicommunal federation." It feels no pressure to sign away the 37 percent of the island the Turks

gained by force.

The 23 university students who gathered at the Ledra Palace one Sunday evening in December grew up in these postwar ethnic ghettos but want to break out. Their conflict-resolution group has met almost monthly for a year.

To come to the once-stately hotel, now a dormitory for UN peacekeeping troops in the buffer zone, Turkish Cypriots must get permission from their reluctant leaders and Greek Cypriots must dodge hecklers on their side. The hecklers, who stand outside the checkpoint, also vandalize the students' cars.

"You are the hope of this country,"
Philip Snyder told the students after they had greeted each other with hugs and sat in a circle. Mr. Snyder, an American who moderates the meetings for the U.S.-financed Cyprus Fulbright Com-mission, added, "In 20, 30 years from now, you'll be in charge.'

Court Tells Yeltsin to Sign Law to Keep Looted Art

MOSCOW -- President Boris Yeltsin must sign a law that will keep World War II "trophy art" in Russia, a court ruled Monday, delivering a set-back to the president and his efforts to

negotiate a settlement with Germany. The trophy art, which the victorious Soviet Army looted from Nazi Germany at the end of World War II, is a source of friction in otherwise good relations between Russia and Germany.

Both houses of Russia's Parliament overrode a Yeltsin veto last year and approved a bill designed to keep the art treasures in Russia.

Mr. Yeltsin, who wants the freedom to work out a deal with Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany, has refused

The president claimed Parliament violated its voting procedures by allowing some members to cast ballots for absent

But the Constitutional Court ruled in favor of Parliament, saying that Mr. Yeltsin was required to sign the bill into law despite his objections. The court said the president had "evaded" his constitutional responsibilities by not

Still, the issue could drag on for some

The president's representative to the Constitutional Court, Sergei Shakhrai, said Monday that Mr. Yeltsin planned to challenge the measure on the grounds that it violates international law and the Russian Constitution, the Itar-Tass press agency reported.

'If the law sets norms that violate our

international obligations, then our international obligations must take pre-cedence." Mr. Shakhrai said in televised comments.

Mr. Yeltsin has argued that the bill does not differentiate between German artworks and art that the Nazis had seized from other countries and individuals in Europe.

Members of Parliament say the law does not rule out cooperation with third countries or individuals, but deputies are adamantly opposed to returning art to Germany.

The Soviet Army carted off enormous quantities of art from Germany. Some masterpieces have been exhibited in recent years in museums such as the Hermitage in St. Petersburg, but much of it has been locked away in the basements of Russian museums, often in poor conditions. Under the new law, the return of

every item of war booty would be subject to individual parliamentary approval, all but blocking any effective hand-

To the dismay of Germany and other nations whose art was taken by the Soviet Army, the bill introduces highly complicated procedures for the return of trophy art, requiring a formal request by a foreign government and approval by the Russian Parliament.

As a result, it is extremely unlikely any art would be returned.

Parliament's mood reflects the feelings of many Russians who see the art as compensation for the huge losses inflicted by Nazi Germany during the war.

(AP, Reuters)



A museum worker at a display of "trophy art" at an exhibition at the Pushkin Museum in Moscow.

Paris Police Hold 8 Protesting Visit by Zhu

PARIS - The police detained eight members of a press-freedom group Monday when they distributed leaflets outside a hotel where Prime Minister Zhu Rongji of China was meeting with French business leaders, the group

'Eight members of Reporters Without Borders were taken away by riot police as they distributed leaflets calling on China to allow Gao Yu, an

imprisoned Chinese woman journalist, to be allowed to go to hospital," a spokesman for the group said.

He said no violence had been used against the journalists, who included the secretary-general of the group, Robert Menard. Representatives of the police headquarters said they were

The demonstration was held to back a campaign in support of the jour-

The group said Miss Gao was a correspondent in China for the Hong Kong Mirror Monthly and the Chinese Overseas Daily and was serving a sixyear prison term on charges of divulging state secrets.

Mr. Zhu is on a visit that French officials say was designed to build a "global partnership" between the two countries, which have become reconciled after a quarrel in the early 1990s over French weapon sales to Taiwan.

Far Right Disrupts French Politics Again

TOULOUSE — The far-right National Front sent a fresh jolt through France's battered political scene on Monday, electing a conservative as chairman of the Midi-Pyrenees region for the second time against his will.

Marc Censi, who last month resigned immediately after being elected regional chairman because he had won with the help of National Front votes, was again chosen to head the region's elected council and was considering whether to resign again,

colleagues said. The election was the latest sign of the Front's new-found power to shake up mainstream politics since winning 15.3 percent of the vote in March 15 regional elections.

After those elections, five mem-bers of the center-right Union for French Democracy shattered a taboo against deal-making with the Front and accepted Front votes to win chairmanships of newly elected regional councils.

Two of the five later stepped down under pressure but three refused and have been expelled from the party, triggering a crisis on the right and prompting calls for a major reform of the French political system. (Reuters)

Kohl Party Defends Energy Tax Proposal

BONN — Chancellor Heimut Kohl's party defended an election-year energy tax proposal Monday against critics inside his ruling co-

Peter Hintze, general secretary of Mr. Kohl's Christian Democratic Union, said it was "extremely surpris-ing" that its two coalition partners were railing against a proposed Europe-wide tax on energy use because they had endorsed it as recently as November.

The energy tax was included in the Christian Democrats' draft platform last week in an apparent attempt to attract voters put off by the opposition

after the left-leaning Greens called for But the Bavaria-based Christian Social Union, gearing up for a state election two weeks before the federal elections on Sept. 27, has rejected the idea and warned its Christian Demo-

platform for the national vote. The anti-tax Free Democrats, Mr. Kohl's junior governing partner, also criticized the proposal, saying it was the wrong way to woo ecologically

cratic allies that it might draft a rival

Polish Chief Denies Spying on NATO

WARSAW — Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek denied allegations in Germany on Monday that Poland, in-vited to join NATO next year, was

spying on her future allies in the Western alliance. Mr. Buzek heads Poland's Solidarity-led coalition.

Der Spiegel magazine reported Saturday that intelligence agents from Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic remained in close contact with Russian spy operatives and that the three former Warsaw Pact countries had tried to place agents within the NATO headquarters in Brussels. Hungary and the Czech Republic have also been offered NATO mem-

bership next year.
"Such information is usually a warning," Mr. Buzek said. "Nothing specific takes place, but there is sus-picion that it could take place and such information is released in advance to prevent certain actions."

France and Britain Sign Test-Ban Pact

PARIS - France and Britain on Monday became the first of the five nuclear powers to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty that was signed in September, the Foreign Ministry said.

The treaty has been signed by 45 countries and ratified by 13, including France and Britain.

Danish Court Upholds Pact With the EU

The Associated Press

COPENHAGEN — The Supreme Court ruled Monday that the Maastricht treaty for a tighter European Union did not violate the Danish constitution.

A group of 10 citizens sued Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen for signing the Treaty on European Union, which was approved by both the Danish Parliament and voters in a 1993 ref-

The plaintiffs called the Maastricht agreement unconstitutional, saying that it surrendered a greater amount of national sovereignty to the EU than is permitted by the constitution.

The court president, Mogens Hornslet, told a packed courtroom that the 11judge Supreme Court unanimously confirmed a lower-coun ruling that the treaty was constitutional. The ruling means that Denmark can

go ahead with a referendum May 28 on the Amsterdam treaty of last year, which takes EU measures even further than the Maastricht agreement.

"The ruling is just," one plaintiff. Nicholas Fischer, said on television. "Of course it would have been better if the court had upheld our contention." Another opponent, Hanne Norup Carlsen, said that she, too, was satisfied

because the verdict brought "a muchneeded clarification." Television stations, which normally are banned from broadcasting from courtrooms, won permission to transmit

live from the Supreme Court because of the importance of the case. Signed in the Dutch town of Maastricht, the Treaty on European Union envisions such measures as a single

currency and a central bank for the bloc. Danes, who are known as lukewarm supporters of European unity, rejected the Maastricht treaty in 1992. The next year, voters in a second referendum approved a new text with four exemp-

tion clauses for Denmark. The exemptions allow the Danes to remain outside a single currency and banking system and to refrain from joining a European defense structure and law enforcement network. EU citizenship laws also are not applicable.

DEXIA GROUP COMBINED RESULTS 14,035 414,545 - 6 120 Operating - 48,270 -49,798 6,069 6.425 Operating income 39,394 before allowances 36,761 3.?66... Allowances and - 1,069 provisions - 6,475 - 19,412 including 16,482 Non-recurring items 2,350 91 14,473 5,827 5,357 Income before tax 32,459 35,737 - 1,860 - 2,023

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Growth in net income to FRF 3.57 billion (+11.5%)/ BEF 21.9 billion (+12.9%), plus capital gains of FRF 2.35 billion/BEF 14.4 billion

 Three-quarters of net banking income is from interest income. This represents a 4% increase for Crédit local de France, with growth in outstanding loans and sustained average loan margins, but a 1.8% in BEF drop for Crédit Communal de Belgique, hit by the early redemptions made by Belgian local governments using the proceeds from the sale of Dexia Belgium shares, as well as by adjustments made during the year. Other income showed significant improvement (+19%), consisting mainly of commissions as a result of growth in investments, brokerage and financial services.

of the costs necessary for group development.

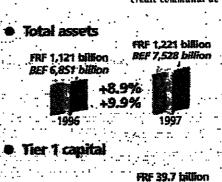


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Net income

The European banking group created by the economie merger of Crédit local de France and Crédit Communal de Belgique.



BEF 244.9 billion FRE 35.0 billion :::
REF 213.8 billion

• ROE (return 18.0%

Operating

 Solvency ratio → Tier 1 10.0%

→ Tier 1+ Tier 2 14.1%

Operating expenses were kept well under control (+1.9%) in spite

 Allowances and provisions included an exceptionally large provision to the general banking risks reserve, in contra to the capitals gains of FRF 2.3 billion/BEF 14.4 billion made on disposal of the equity interest held in Banque Bruxelles Lambert. Risk development was very favourable in all the group's entities, resulting in a drop in the provisions for bad With regard to the risk in Asia, Dexia's overall exposure

to risk on companies, banks and private individuals was low, amounting to FRF 2,480 million/BEF 15.3 billion or approximately 6% of Tier 1 capital. Total provisions for exposure in this area were commitments at risk FRF 250 million/ BEF 1.541 million or 10% of outstanding.

Non-recurring income of FRF 2,350 million/BEF 14,413 million consisted entirely of capital gains realized on the sale of the equity interest held in Banque Bruxelles Lambert.

• The group's net income again reported doubledigit growth to FRF 3,570 million/BEF 21,892 million in line with the past performance of the group and its operating companies, Crédit local de France and Crédit Communal de

NET INCOME GROUP SHARE FRF 3.6 billion FRF 3.2 billion BEF 24.5 billion FRF 2.9 billion BEF 21.4 billion BEF 17.1 billion +10,4% +13,1% Belgique, which have always recorded regular income growth.

Dexia France's net income per share amounted to FRF 48.9 (+12.9%) Decia Belgium's net income per share amounted to BEF 294.2 (+11,5%)

At the Shareholders' Meeting of Dexia France on May 19, 1998, shareholders will be asked to approve a dividend per share of FRF 17.30 (+10.2%).

At the Shareholders' Meeting of Dexia Belgium on May 13, 1998, shareholders will be asked to approve a dividend per share of BEF 130.0

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INTERNATIONAL

Israeli Arabs Revolt Over Land Use

They Declare a General Strike After Violent Clashes in Galilee

By Doug Struck

JERUSALEM - A general strike called Monday by Israeli Arabs following violent weekend clashes with police has surprised Israeli officials and revealed deep frustrations among the nation's I million Arabs.

The strike, called after the police repeatedly demolished three Arab homes built without permits in an "unrecog-

lemma of Israel's Arab citizens, who state in 1948 and accepted citizenship.

But a confrontation with the police

"They want us to be citizens, but without any territory or rights," said Khalid Khalifa, who joined a protest march in Galilee on Monday. They look at us as a threat."

Israeli officials generally expect little nized" village in the northern Galilee whose families were caught within region, once again demonstrated the dithe sudden expansion of the new Israeli



Israeli Arabs marching in Galilee on Monday to protest home demolitions.

HAMAS: Palestinians Accuse Radicals

Continued from Page 1

He said Palestinian investigators had Mr. Netanyahu received details of the interrogated the owners of the garage where the explosion occurred and had questioned about 30 Hamas members. by the Palestinian Authority would pre-

Palestinian officials said that several of the five men whom they arrested allegedly helped set up the plot, but that a sixth man, still at large, actually shot Mr. Sharif in a remote area and drove his to carry out the peace accords first body to the car, which was then exploded with a timed bomb.

"I can now say Israel was not responsible for this operation," said the Palestinian security. Palestinian planning minister, Nabil Shaath, who had been among those who ily were summoned to Mr. Arafat's oforiginally accused Israel. did not believe the explanation.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel called the arrest "a positive development," and said: "What Israel said about not having been involved in any way in the death of Muhyiaddin Sharif is now proved publicly to be internal fighting as he tries to put to-absolutely true." gether a Palestinian state.

☐ 65 or over

the government is answered by discrimination.

dissension from the Arab population,

feel rejected by both Jews and Pales-tinians and who feel that their loyalty to near the Galilee village of Um al Sebali on Saturday brought scenes of violence and anger to Israeli televisions that viewers are more accustomed to seeing in the West Bank Israeli Arab leaders describe the ac-

tions of the authorities as a police riot, a "brutal assault." The police beat protesters with batons and fired tear gas and rubber-coated metal bullets. The protesters threw rocks, set fires and chanted praise for Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi leader - more to taunt the police than to make a real political declaration.

"The violence was actually started by the Arab residents themselves," said a police spokeswoman, Linda Menuchen. All the turmoil was the result of polit-

ical motives."

But Israeli Arab leaders describe it as more of a spontaneous outrage at what they saw as rank discrimination in the demolition of the houses. The houses, on land owned by a Bedouin community, are near a Jewish settlement that has grown with new modern homes, roads, ghts and utilities.

But the Israeli authorities prevent the Arabs from building in more than 40 "unrecognized villages," many of which have existed for generations.

'They look at Arabs in the Galilee as demographic threat," said Mr. Khalifa, who runs the Arab Center for Information and Documentation. "So they want to expand the Jewish settlements while they refuse to let us expand."

A similar confrontation over land in the Galilee in 1976 resulted in five Arab youths being shot and killed by Israeli soldiers, an incident observed each year by the Israeli Arab community with Land Day protests.

The treatment of the Arab communities has long been an embarrassment for Israel. A succession of reports has documented that the Israeli Arab towns are greatly neglected in the government budgets. Many of the Israeli Arab towns still have few public utilities and dirt roads, a rarity among Jewish commu-nities. Israeli Arab communities have high poverty, high unemployment, low health care and poor education.

A Hamas spokesman, Mahmoud Za-Israeli Arab feaders say the previous har, said, "We reject the report of the Labor government began to take steps to reduce the imbalance, but they complain Several members of Mr. Sharif's famthat the rightist Likud government has little interest in promoting the welfare of fice to hear the news, but later said they non-Jewish citizens.

Majid Haj, a professor of sociology at Haifa University, said: "There is an The arrests risk exacerbating tensions between Mr. Arafat's authority and increasing frustration at the day-to-day inequality. The Israeli Arabs feel we are not only not progressing, but there is an aggression on the part of this govern-Mr. Arafat has been anxious to avoid ment toward us.



HAJJ CLIMAX — Muslim pilgrims outside their tents near the holy city of Mecca. On Thursday, some 2 million Muslims converged on nearby Mount Arafat where the Prophet Mohammed gave his last sermon.

DEAL: Citicorp and Travelers to Merge in Record Transaction

Continued from Page 1

largely wholesale and a largely retail operation with numerous cross-selling opportunities.

Sanford Weill, the Travelers chairman, said he expected the Fed to quickly approve his company's application to become a bank holding company and added: "I don't think we have to spin anything off to make this happen.

Current law, he said, allows at least two and as many as five years for prohibited assets to be divested. "We are hopeful that over that time the legislation will change," he added.

He said the companies had already

had talks with the Fed about specific legal impediments and said, "We have had enough discussions to believe this will not be a problem.'

As well as having had discussions with the Fed and the Treasury, Mr. Reed said President Bill Clinton was briefed on the announcement Sunday night. The deal, Mr. Reed said, was not

expected to require approval outside the United States because Citicorp's Citibank subsidiary was the entity that was registered as a bank elsewhere, and the change would be at the holding-company level.

Another big question is whether the combined company can live with two ecutives of Citigroup. Although Mr. Reed said they had known each other for erations of American Can. Primerica more than 30 years, they have run their already owned Smith Barney. operations in very different ways.



N/H

Rench Account

John Reed, left, Citicorp chief, and Sanford Weill, chairman of Travelers in New York on Monday before the merger was announced.

Loeb Rhoades, which he sold to Amer- from American Express for \$1.2 billion. left in 1985.

The next year, he began afresh, taking over Commercial Credit Co., a troubled lending subsidiary of Control Data Systems Inc., which sold most of the unit to the public that year. The following year,

In 1989, Mr. Weill bought retail While Citicorp has avoided acqui- brokerage operations that had belonged sitions, Mr. Weill has cobbled together to Drexel Burnham Lambert Inc., which Travelers from a diverse group of fi- was forced to close because of its probnancial concerns, the second time he has lems in the junk-bond market. In 1992, forged such an empire. During the 1960s he began to buy Travelers, which had

ican Express Co. in 1981. But he was Last year, he bought Salomon Brothers, unable to work with James Robinson 3d, the bond-trading powerhouse that had the American Express chairman, and he run into trouble with the government by trying to corner the market at Treasurybond auctions. According to Mr. Reed, it was Mr.

Weill who had the idea of uniting Citicorp with Travelers, broaching the idea late in February. Mr. Reed said he bosses. Mr. Weill and Mr. Reed are to Mr. Weill took Commercial Credit found the idea instantly appealing be-become co-chairmen and co-chief ex- private. In 1988, he bought Primerica, cause it allowed the two organizations to found the idea instantly appealing bewhich grew out of the financial op- merge their distribution channels, providing "one-stop shopping" for con-Mr. Reed said an emerging worldwide

middle class would not "want to shop from place to place" for financial products. "Nobody wants a mortgage," he said, "they want to buy a house." Similarly, he said, savers do not want to and 1970s, he assembled a network of been plagued by bad real-estate invest- own mutual funds but want to prepare fo brokerage houses that became Shearson ments, and in 1993, he bought Shearson retirement as part of an overall plan.

Herald Tribune

"It shows if the Palestinian Authority

vants to, it can fight terror," he added.

arrests from an aide to Yasser Arafat,

vent action by other Hamas activists, or

convince the Palestinian public, already

angered by what it sees as Israel's refusal

It was unclear whether the statement

head of the Palestinian Authority.

signed in 1993.

THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

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KOSOVO: Ethnic Albanian Guerrilla Groups Gathering Strength

Continued from Page 1

foreign mercenaries, whose heavily accented Albanian, as well as their appearance and martial demeanor, sugests experience in other war zones.

Many ethnic Albanians roaming the hills said they quit their menial jobs in Germany or Switzerland when the Serbian counterinsurgency sweeps that left at least 80 people dead began last month. They traveled to Albania, where they hastily collected uniforms and weapons, and crossed the rugged frontier with pack mules bringing in fresh arms and ammunition.

Rebel leaders, they contend, have been busily signing up recruits and col-lecting contributions worth hundreds of thousands of dollars from the more than 600.000 ethnic Albanian refugees and seasonal workers in Europe to prosecute

"I came back as soon as I saw the pictures of the massacres, the destroyed houses and the bodies of the women and children," said a rebel wearing a black ski mask. "I left everything in Germany when I understood what the Serbs were doing to my people. It was my duty. We will fight until the last of us is dead. We have little interest in speaking. We are fighters."

In the indiscriminate killings by hundreds of heavily armed Serbian police and paramilitary units last month, more than half of the victims were women and children. The death of so many noncombatants has enraged a population fed up with heavy-handed police rule and life as second-class citizens in the Ser-

"We laid flowers today on the desks Srbica said as he wiped away his tears. None of us could teach and none of the by grief for our little ones and hatred for

down, according to witnesses. Many istration, and collect taxes. bodies, laid out at mass funerals, bore signs of mutilation and summary ex-

Serbian officials have tried to blame peaceful resistance. the rebel fighters for the carnage, saying

emplacements in the province, despite officials close to Mr. Rugova. calls from abroad that they be withdrawn. In many villages, like Jablanica, along with the whoosh and detonation of the Serbs, that could be costly.



Members of the Serbian government attending deliberations Monday on whether there should be foreign mediation in the Kosovo crisis.

women and children have been sent mortar rounds, punctuates most days and away to live with relatives in anticipation of the looming combat. "You have to wonder if the Serbs had

any idea what they were doing when they shot their way in here last month," said a Western diplomat who is in Pristina, Kosovo's capital, monitoring province will be ceded to the rebels."

The ethnic Albanians, who make up students could study. We are overcome 90 percent of Kosovo's 2 million people, in 1989 when they began to call for an The Serbs, rather than hunt down independent state. A shadow governarmed groups, blasted villages into ment led by Ibrahim Rugova has mounrubble with 20-millimeter cannon, gren- ted a disciplined program of civic reade launchers and 50-caliber machine sistance that has seen the ethnic guns. Those trapped in the houses died, Albanians boycott all state institutions, and many of those who fled were gunned set up their own schools and admin-

> independence, coupled with the police sweeps, appears to have doomed the

Many of the funds collected for the

nights in the rolling, dun-colored hill-

A group of four guerrillas, drawing on cigarettes within sight of a hilltop position manned by the Serbian police. listened nonchalantly on their walkietalkies to the chatter on the police radios. on nine of our pupils who were murdered by the Serbs," a 49-year-old teacher at the Petro Marko elementary school in 30 years or accept that parts of this and abrupt.

"We know how many police are in each position, when the shifts change, when the convoy with the supplies arhad their autonomy stripped by Belgrade rives at the checkpoint and what kind of weapons the enemy uses," a rebel soldier said. "We are growing in strength each day.

The rebel movement, sustained by a sympathetic rural population, equipped with little more than AK-47 assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenades. It has carried out numerous attacks The failure after eight years to achieve over the last year against the Serbian police, senior Serbian officials and ethnic Albanians accused of collaborating with the Serbian government.

It remains unclear if the rebels are the guerrillas executed those who tried to administration among ethnic Albanians organized under a central command and abroad are being diverted to the coffers what, if any, long-term strategy they The police remain in heavily fortified of the rebel movement, according to have embraced. Many vowed this week & to protect the villages they control, a The sound of automatic-weapons fire, tactic, given the superior firepower of

حكذا من الاعل

INTERNATIONAL

*French Accuse Uganda Over Missiles That Led to Massacres in Rwanda

الميكذا من الاعل

By Craig R. Whitney

PARIS — Amid growing controversy about France's role in Rwanda before the mass killings in 1994 that took at least 500,000 lives, a former French government minister said Monday that the missiles that brought down a Rwandan presidential airplane and unleashed the massacres had probably come from American stocks provided to Uganda.

Who shot down the plane on April 6, 1994, has never been established. Ethnic Tutsi rebels operating from Uganda had been fighting a war with forces dominated by Rwanda's Hutu majority since 1990, and extremist Hutu leaders were unhappy with a peace agreement brokered by the

The Hutu extremists used the crash, which killed President Juvenal Habyarimana of Rwanda and President Cyprien Niaryamira of near certainty that they were Ugandan missiles, Burundi and the three-man French crew of their most probably delivered by the Americans," he

blamed both Hutu extremists and Tutsi rebel forces for shooting down the plane and have placed both English-speaking and French-speaking advisers close to the scene, but there has been

no public proof of any of the charges. Bernard Debre, the French minister responsible for dealing with African countries from November 1994 to May 1995, told the French radio station RTL on Monday that the two Sovietbuilt SAM-16 missiles that hit the presidents' States from Iraq during the Gulf War in 1991.

He said that France had been able to identify all with Rwandan government forces.

"With the serial numbers, we can say with

[A senior Ugandan military source denied Monday that Uganda supplied the missiles that shot down the plane, Agence France-Presse reported from Kampala. The source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Uganda did not have such missiles.]

built SAM-16 missiles that hit the presidents' missiles had been seized in Iraq by French forces, plane had come from stocks seized by the United not by Americans, and provided to Rwandan government forces.

Mr. Debre's comments came as a French parbut one of the serial numbers on the missiles. liamentary inquiry into the country's role in presumably through military advisers serving Rwanda before and after the massacres gathered momentum, with the disclosure that the prime minister during Mr. Debre's tenure, Edouard Balladur, a fellow conservative, would testify.

systematic massacre of at least half the country's estimated I million Tutsi.

Unsubstantiated reports and rumors have blamed best face of the country's and rumors have done so.

It is a providing the missiles to the rebels, but the implication was that U.S. allies in Uganda may have done so.

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It is a providing the missiles to the rebels, but the implication was that U.S. allies in Uganda may have done so.

last place where the truth about a matter like this would emerge.

Mr. Debre was reacting defensively, however, after a report last week in a French conservative newspaper, the daily Le Figaro, said that the late Francois Mitterrand, has ordered the Foreign report last week in a French conservative newspaper. The daily Le Figaro, said that the late Francois Mitterrand, has ordered the Foreign report thousands of massacres."

France has long been touchy about what in Ministry to turn over to the inquiry all the information it has about France's role in Rwanda from 1990 to 1994, officials said.

The parliamentary mission was prompted by newspaper articles about French involvement in the massacres earlier this year. Both Le Figaro and Le Monde revisited the issue last month after President Bill Clinton, on his tour of Africa, acknowledged that American reluctance to be-Burnindi and the three-man French crew of their plane, as a pretext for immediately beginning the said. Mr. Debre did not accuse the United States

So far, the investigation, led by Senator Paul come involved had delayed an international rescue the United States. Quiles, a Socialist and a former defense minister, cue mission that could have saved tens of thou-

train the Rwandan troops that carried out the massacres and did nothing to try to prevent them.

"The French Army has no responsibility, Mr. Balladur said Monday. "France is the only the word 'cenocide,' the A parliamentary inquiry might normally be the country to have used the word 'genocide.' the only country whose chief of government, myself, went to the United Nations to finally get a hu-But Hubert Vedrine, the Socialist foreign min-manitarian operation decided on, the only coun-

> regards as American poaching on its turf in French-speaking Africa, and Mr. Mitterrand appears to have sent aid to Rwanda in 1990 mainly because he did not want to see the Americansupported, and English-speaking, government in Uganda extend U.S. influence over the region.

> In the aftermath of the human disaster there, Mr. Mitterrand's conservative successor, President Jacques Chirac, and the Socialist government of Prime Minister Lionel Jospin have scaled back military activities in Africa.

Success Halts Study of Drug To Prevent **Breast Cancer**

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athering Strength

By David Brown Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON - A huge federally funded study of a drug to fight breast cancer was halted last week when the benefit of the drug became obvious to scientists and officials overseeing it.

Women at high risk for breast cancer can cut their chances of developing the disease by half, at least over the short term, by taking the drug tamoxifen.

That finding is the main conclusion of the Breast Cancer Prevention Trial A source familiar with the study results said that women randomly assigned to take tamoxifen had a 45 percent lower risk of developing invasive breast cancer than women taking inactive, or placebo, pills.

The study enrolled about 13.000 women from the United States and Canada, and was scheduled to last at least a year longer. It was the largest clinical experiment ever testing a drug's ability to prevent cancer.

Previous research had shown that taking tamoxifen reduced the chances of a breast cancer recurrence in women who disease. The new study sought to determine whether the drug would benefit a putri, daughter of Indonesia's first presmuch different group - healthy women at higher-than-normal risk for cancer and began preparations for a wedding because of family history, previous party this month for her only daughter.

offer a relatively simple prevention month breather "to prove he can over-strategy for some high-risk women. Oth-come the present crisis." structural reform is put in place."

Despite the apparent determine er, less certain, strategies include reducing the consumption of fat and alcohol, and increasing exercise.

Tamoxifen, however, is not without its own risks or side effects.

While it reduces a high-risk woman's chances of breast cancer, it also raises about threefold her risk for uterine cancer. It increases, as well, a person's risk of developing blood clots, including dangerous ones that migrate to the lungs. (Two women on tamoxifen in the study died of that complication, which is called pulmonary embolism.) Both uterine cancer and pulmonary embolism, however, are much rarer than breast cancer in high-risk women.

A scientist familiar with the study results warned against any conclusion that tamoxifen was of benefit to all women, or even most women. Physicians, patients and women's health advocates will have to review the study before making clinical recommendations.



SEARCH FOR SEEDS — An emaciated Sudanese woman sifting soil for seeds Monday at a village 800 kilometers southwest of Khartoum. Aid agencies say many Sudanese face starvation because of the civil war.

INDONESIA: Students Are 'On Their Own' in Political Struggle

Continued from Page 1

Emil Salim, the former cabinet minister who had put himself forward as a lengthy trip abroad. Megawati Sukarno-putri, daughter of Indonesia's first pres-any publicly identified political leader. ident, retreated to her family compound

boxing competition," he said. "Between

the rounds, you have to take a break." Mr. Rais expressed consternation that the calls for change never seemed to catch fire, even as the economic situation deteriorated. "That is what really amazes me," he said. "The people just complain,

but they seem very, very tolerant.'

"I'm frustrated to see the reaction of the Indonesian people," Mr. Rais added. One exception to the general retreat has been college students, whose protests have persisted since Mr. Suharto's reappointment and in some cases have led to violent clashes with police. In the absence of any credible political opposition or alternatives to Mr. Suharto, the students, by default, have taken the lead

in the struggle for change. Student leaders say they often use the Internet and e-mail to communicate among various campuses, but they say the protests are not coordinated.

Erik Hussein, 21, a law student and said Ali Sadikin, a longtime Suharto member of the student senate at the Uni- critic who is a former three-star general versity of Indonesia in Jakarta, said that and governor of Jakarta. "I still pray that the student protests were about structural had been successfully treated for the vice presidential candidate, left on a reform not specific personalities, and that

What we are talking about is an issue of reform, not an issue of succession,' Mr. Hussein said. "A change of leadbreast abnormalities, or age.

Amien Rais, a fiery Muslim leader, ership will happen — how and when, no
The findings suggest the drug may said he was giving Mr. Subarto a six- one knows. What is important is that

Despite the apparent determination "The democratic struggle is like a voiced by Mr. Hussein and other student cause you couldn't get credit," General leaders, many analysts question their ability to broaden the movement and link up with other disaffected sectors of society. "What we don't know is how deep the

commitment is on the part of the students or the faculty," said an Asian diplomat stationed in Jakarta. "What they need to do is maintain interest for a few months." He recommended that the students build bridges to nongovernmental groups and larger mass organizations. "They're out there on their own," he said.

For now, though, any talk of an op-position movement gaining enough mass support to topple Mr. Suharto seems speculative at best. Since a largely handpicked assembly of his loyalists named him to another five-year term on March 10, Mr. Suharto is now more firmly in control than at any time since the economic crisis erupted last year. His critics are left to wait for a dramatic turn of events. "I don't know what will happen,"

Suharto will step down."
General Sadikin's experience illus-

trates the high price of public dissent in Indonesia. In 1980, he was one of 50 high-profile Indonesians, including retired senior military officers, to sign a self politically circumscribed.

"You couldn't conduct business be-Sadikin said. "You were isolated from the government. Foreign embassies were told not to invite us to functions. We were blacklisted in the press.'

Perhaps the experience of that group of dissidents provided a sobering warning to the newer crop of Suharto critics. Those who now challenge Mr. Suharto publicly often are circumspect, always careful to praise the president's contributions even while calling on him to step aside. In fact, these critics do not even call themselves 'opposition," since that might out them on the wrong side of the law.

"People are always asking me about 'opposition,' "Mrs. Megawati said, correcting a reporter she said had incorrectly referred to her as an "opposition" politician. "If I agree with this, it means said, noting that opposition parties are

Editors Debate The Ethnic Mix Of Newsrooms

By Felicity Barringer
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — A group representing American newspaper editors has proposed scaling back its 20-year-old goals for increasing diversity in news-

Saying their longtime goal of making newsrooms mirror the country's ethnic mix by the year 2000 is untenable, top officials of the American Society of Newspaper Editors have proposed that a self-imposed deadline be rolled back and the time frame be adjusted to become what one editor called "ambitious but realistic."

The reaction to the proposal, made by the society's board at its annual convention, was intense: Within 48 hours, a group of dissenting editors declared their intention to look for a more ambitious set of goals, while minority journalists' groups expressed dismay, saying that 'realism' was another word for

About 6,300, or 11.4 percent of the nation's 54,700 newspaper reporters, photographers and editors are black. Asian, Hispanic or American Indian, according to a society survey. That is about triple the percentage of 1978, when the group set its goal.

But gains have leveled off in recent years — with an increase of just one-tenth of 1 percent in the last year while the country's minority population petition calling for political reform. But has grown far beyond the 15 percent the like other members of the "Petition of society had projected for 2000. In 1994, 50 Group," General Sadikin found him-nearly 26 percent of the U.S. population were members of minorities.

"There's a widespread sense of diversity fatigue, not only among editors of newspapers," said A. Stephen Montiel, one of the dissenters who is president of the Maynard Institute for Journalism Education. "The Latinos and African-Americans at newspapers whom we talk to are feeling frustrated."

Rick Rodriguez, the managing editor of The Sacramento Bee in California and a member of the society's board, said he "would love to have parity" between newsroom populations and the popu-lation at large. "But an unrealistic goal is a disincentive to editors and publishers," he said.

He said he believed that the group's stated goal should be an increase of about seven-tenths of 1 percentage point annually, a number "more in keeping with the numbers of journalists coming out of I am breaking our constitution," she I schools." That pace would increase minority representation in newsrooms to not allowed here. "I belong to that group of people who criticize very strongly." 20 percent by the year 2010. The board's proposal is set for a vote in the fall.

BRIEFLY

Military Chief Quits In South Africa

Mandela accepted Monday the early-retirement request of South Africa's military chief, General Georg Meiring, whose warning of a leftist coup threat was found to be

General Meiring said earlier Monday that he had offered to retire because his report, submitted to Mr. Mandela in February, was found to be without foundation by a judicial commission in March.

Deputy Defense Minister Ronnie Kasrils said there would be no fur-ther investigation into the report. which he described as "laughable and nonsensical."

35 Villagers Slain, Algeria Reports

 Algerian security forces said Monday that Islamic rebels cut the throats of 35 villagers overnight, the latest two massacres on the eve of the Muslim Feast of

A pro-government newspaper, meanwhile, said troops who have killed up to 200 rebels in the past two weeks in western Algeria were rolling over guerrilla holdouts in Sidi Bel Abbes Province.

The security forces said in a statement released by the Algerian news agency APS that rebels slit the throats of 27 villagers in Boukrina hamlet in the western town of Arzew, Algeria's main oil and gas export outlet.

In a similar massacre, eight ci-ilians died the same night in Sidi Hadjeres area in M'Sila Province, 200 kilometers (125 miles) southeast of Algiers, the security forces said in a separate statement.

Hondurans Accuse 'Death Squads'

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras -Rightist "death squads" have carried out a string of attacks against government officials in the past month, citizens' groups said Sun-

Four Honduran officials, including a cabinet member, have been attacked by unknown gunmen in the past four weeks in a wave of violence that civilian groups said was reminiscent of the death squads that operated in the 1980s. No one was killed in the attacks. (Reuters) (Reuters)

TV: Pushing Envelope of Propriety in U.S.

Continued from Page 1

of the radio "shock-jocks," announced that he would begin a late-night television version of his show on CBS stations to compete with "Saturday Night Live, '' starting in August.
''I'd say there's been a quantum leap

downward this year in terms of adolescent, vulgar language and attempts to treat sexuality in shocking terms," said
Robert Lichter, director of the Center for
was seen by millions of children, had a Media and Public Affairs, a nonpartisan

research group in Washington. "People used to complain that teleyear-old. Now it seems aimed at the hormones

of a 14-year-old." On Tuesday, at the annual convention of the National Association of Broadcasters in

Joseph Lieberman, Democrat of Con- arise from isolated circumstances. necticut, and William Bennett, the conservative Republican commentator and lobbyist, plan to speak out, as they did become a cult attraction for college smsexually lurid talk shows. They will arge sexually lurid talk shows. They will arge sexually lurid talk shows. They will arge cluded one where a young man and woman told the woman's boyfriend they springer Show," in particular, and to Springer Show," in particular, and to adopt a voluntary "code of conduct" adopt a voluntary "code of conduct" enabling them to restrict vulgar programming without fear of losing a com-

But interviews with parents around the country last week suggested that many American families were not as acutely distressed about television vulgarity as Mr. Lieberman and Mr. Bennett are.

Some parents say they believe their children, raised in a multiple-channel universe, are savvy enough about television not to be overly influenced by it. Some argue that real-life issues and foul language confront children anyway.
"I don't think parents have given up

caring, but they've almost given up fighting," Mr. Lichter said. "Popular culture is so ubiquitous it's almost impossible to combat. It's like the weather, everyone complains about it but no one does anything.

Television is not alone in coarseness. In music, four-letter words and sexual bravado are common, not only in rap, but in mainstream rock. Even the most popular movie of the year, "Titanic," which scene in which the female lead appeared topless.

vision was aimed at the mind of a 12- that anyone is deliberately pushing the

'I'd say there's been a quantum leap downward.

Network executives tend to dispute

envelope of pop-culture propriety to attract viewers. They say television reflects the culture, which has grown more permissive, and that the provocative themes in certain shows

Some of Jerry Springer's guests' bouts are obviously staged, too, and have

audience (with genital pixillation making the segment suitable for television). Some parents say children learn to idolize the wrong sorts of people and lifestyles. Others say children know the difference between reality and the fictional world of television.

people will be desensitized to meanness everywhere else. and sexual risks. Michael Cohen, a developmental psychologist and partner in a New York City research firm, Arc Cambridge, Massachusetts. "I'm of the Consulting, shares that concern but says notion that life is a soap opera."

U.S. Envoy Prompts Fireworks in Athens

ATHENS - Greece's European affairs minister stormed out of Parliament on Monday after the speaker likened the U.S. ambassador here to an imperial governor and asked

the government to rein him in.

The ambassador, Nicholas
Burns, a former State Department spokesman, has been touring the country urging Greeks to put up a better fight against terrorism, to stop copyright piracy and to liberalize their economy.

"He is an ambassador, but he behaves like an anthippatos," said the speaker, Apostolos Kaklamanis. interrupting George Papandreou, a fellow Socialist, while he was addressing the Parliament. "It's about time you reined him in."

In ancient Greek, the word anthippatos was used to describe a deputy governor during Imperial Roman times. By using the word, Mr. Kaklamanis was hinting that Mr. Burns was acting like a representative of an imperialist state.

Mr. Papandreou, gathering his papers, shot back, "The Foreign Ministry is perfectly aware of how to conduct its business.'

not enough research has been done to draw conclusions.

But many parents today say they believe that battling with their children about television is almost pointless, given the anti-social humor, foul language Some experts worry that young and sexual innuendo young people hear

"It's part of life," said Katherine Mahoney, a mother of two teenagers in

Continued from Page 1

sent to prison. Although the reasons for the sentence last week differ from those in 1987 when he was detained without trial as a "threat to national security" — both times that Mr. Lim has been sent to jail,

Malaysia's economy has been in a rut. Over the last few months, as the region's economic crisis has filtered into everyday life with rising prices and layoffs, the government's tolerance of dissent has appeared to evaporate slowly. Nearly every week a government min-

the country's Internal Security Act, which calls for detention without trial, against anyone who spreads rumors about the economy, incites racial strife, aggravates air pollution by burning trash outdoors or, most recently, helps Story."The document, which was phoillegal immigrants enter the country.

During the weekend, the government were suspected of helping forge identification cards. Officials did not say ernment official. when the suspects would be released, but weeks to several years.

The government has also admonished the media in recent months to present stories in a positive light. Newspaper editors say that directives from the gov- and printing "false news." His original ernment on what should be covered in sentence, handed down last year, called the press and how have become almost for a 15,000 ringgit fine, which at the routine, resulting in increasing levels of time was equal to \$6,000. Last Wedself-censorship.

"The government is using very successfully the weapons of fear and intimidation," Mr. Lim said in an interview last week after he spent a night in jail. "They've managed to frighten the population away from taking a stand on issues of importance such as account-

Parliament member in Malaysia to be of people who have been detained by the The prosecutor in the case defended the government that is important — very few people of his generation have ex-perienced interrogation in the blue room. Rather, it is the climate of fear that he says has evolved among opposition politicians, journalists and ordinary Malaysians.

"Self-censorship has been refined into such an art that the censors couldn't do a better job," he said.

Mr. Lim was convicted last year of notion that verdicts themselves could charges arising from the publication in not be criticized. ister or police chief has threatened to use 1995 of a pamphlet titled "The True

The government's tolerance of dissent has appeared to evaporate.

tocopied and distributed to a few thou- the sex allegation broke: "It seems to me sand people, criticized the government's to be a gross mockery of justice that she used the act to detain 20 bureaucrats who decision not to press statutory rape is the one being charged for illicit sex," charges against a former senior gov-

The pamphlet questioned why the judging from previous cases, including schoolgirl involved in the scandal - she Mr. Lim's, they could be held from a few was 15 at the time — was detained in the case, but not the official, who was then thers?" he asked. Mr. Lim's father, Lim regarded as a protégé of Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad.

Mr. Lim was convicted of sedition nesday, the Court of Appeals in Kuala Lumpur dismissed Mr. Lim's two appeals and sentenced him instead to two

18-month concurrent prison terms. If his new appeal fails, Mr. Lim will be disqualified from his seat in Par-

In announcing the decision, Judge

MALAYSIA: The Economic Crisis Is Affecting Official Policy ability, transparency and more democ-racy and freedom." Gopal Sri Ram said: "It is time that the court sends a clear message that it cannot court sends a clear message that it cannot For Mr. Lim, 38, it is not the number tolerate any attack on the judiciary.

> vice from any political party or political leader, including the prime minister, in making decisions or handling cases," said Mohtar Abdullah, the country's attomey general. But in the days following the decision, voices from inside and outside Malaysia

sentence, saying that it was not polirically motivated. "We do not need ad-

criticized the verdict -- as well as the As for Mr. Lim, he questions why he has been singled out, when others, notably the prime minister's daughter, have been equally crit-

ical of the government's handling

of the case. Marina Mahathir wrote in a newspaper column a few months after Mr. Lim said he agreed with what Ms. Marina said in reference to the school-

girl, but asked why she was not prosecuted for her views in the column. "Is it because we have different fa-Kit Siang, is the leader of the opposition party and often an outspoken govern-

Father and son share top posts in their party, the Democratic Action Party, a fact that led Mr. Mahathir recently to suggest that they practiced nepotism.

ment critic.

What Guan Eng has received from my nepotism, replied the elder Mr. Lim last week, "are not business opportunities, mega-contracts and mega-loans, but a crown of thorns, the destruction of his political life as well as putting in jeopardy his own public life and the welfare of his family and children.



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EDITORIALS/OPINION

Push China on Rights

the UN Human Rights Commission. now meeting in Geneva, the Clinton administration acknowledges what has long been obvious.

Washington no longer favors public condemnations of China's severe human rights abuses, believing that such criticism damages broader diplomatic and commercial relations between Beijing and Washington.

Human rights are a basic American interest, and the administration should not flinch from promoting them. Whether Washington does so through public criticism or less confrontational methods should be determined by the effectiveness of either approach. It is encouraging to learn that China is likely to allow Wang Dan, the most prominent democracy advocate now behind bars, to go into exile. But other dissidents are still being arrested.

While it has lowered its voice, the administration has not walked away from the issue of Chinese human rights. President Bill Clinton offered a forceful defense of basic freedoms in his joint press conference with China's president, Jiang Zemin, last October in

Washington.

Mr. Clinton should return to that theme when he visits China this June. The administration has been urging China to extend political freedoms and the rule of law and to subscribe to

By dropping its annual sponsorship international human rights conven-of a resolution condemning China at tions. Last month China announced it tions. Last month China announced it would sign the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights, which guarantees freedom of expression, assembly and religion. That is a positive step, though it is unclear to what extent China will abide by those guarantees.

For the moment, China seems to have entered a slightly less repressive phase. Several dissidents have been freed recently or sent into exile. Petitions calling for greater democracy were allowed to circulate in advance of the recent session of the National People's Congress, China's official legislature. Ordinary Chinese now enjoy more freedom in what they can say. whom they can meet and how they can earn a living. But there is a danger that China will interpret Washington's relaxation of public pressure as an invitation to resume its forment of the tiny band of democracy advocates the next time the political winds shift.

The China Mr. Clinton will visit in June is a country in intellectual flux and more open than ever to outside ideas. Mr. Clinton should take advantage of the opportunity to talk directly about the rights and freedoms that Americans hold most important, just as Ronald Reagan openly challenged the Soviet Union's stifling ideology dur-ing his 1988 visit to Moscow. Most freedoms are still lacking in China.

-THE NEW YORK TIMES

Yeltsin's Gyrations

Russian rulers have never been a buttoned-down lot, but Boris Yeltsin has been doing some pioneering work in eccentric leadership.

The gyrations of recent weeks have left a nation with thousands of nuclear weapons in the untenable position of having no sure line of succession to a president of uncertain health. That raises the awkward but unavoidable question of whether Mr. Yeltsin is capable of providing the steady leadership his country so urgently needs.

In deed and in word. Mr. Yeltsin has seemed wobbly of late. By replacing a seasoned prime minister. Viktor Chernomyrdin, with a political novice. Sergei Kiriyenko, Mr. Yeltsin increases the chances of future instability. Mr. Kiriyenko seems no match for the political heavyweights who would contend for the presidency if Mr. Yeltsin became incapacitated or died before his term expires in 2000. Without a strong prime minister to fill the post and hold together the country until new elections could be called, a constitutional succession could be overwhelmed by a scramble for power.

Mr. Yeltsin seemed indifferent to this danger as he decapitated his government. He compounded the problem by seeming unclear himself about which ministers he planned to reappoint and Parliament's role in the

formation of a new government. Russian satirists make sport of this unpredictable behavior, but it is not amusing. Mr. Yeltsin, through force of personality and revision of the constitution, has given the presidency lopsided power. That puts a premium on constant leadership. It also places a burden on Mr. Yeltsin, his aides and his doctors to level with Russians

about his health. Since bypass surgery in November 1996, Mr. Yeltsin has dropped out of sight several times to treat what his doctors described as respiratory illnesses. They have denied any recurrence of the heart problems that incapacitated him before the surgery, and have said he suffered no mental impair-

ment during or after the operation. Given Mr. Yeltsin's impulsive instincts, it is hard to know whether his recent conduct is just another burst of capricious behavior or a sign of physical or mental deterioration. It is not a question that Russia can afford to sidestep.

-THE NEW YORK TIMES

Hope for Armenia

One and a half years ago, Armenia's reputation as a fledgling democracy took a hit when its incumbent president, Levon Ter-Petrossian, held onto power through a re-election process that was widely judged to be fraudulent. Mr. Ter-Petrossian, at one time a respected Soviet dissident and intellectual, struggled to govern for a year and finally resigned in February.

Now Armenia has repaired some of the damage by staging an election that. while far from perfect, represents a major improvement over the 1996 vote - and over the level of democracy in many other post-Soviet republics. A preliminary report of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe described irregularities in the March 30 vote, including ballot-box stuffing and "sufficient indication of vote fraud to require further investigation and pos-

sible criminal charges. But the observers also said that in terms of equal access to media, reduced pressure on voting soldiers and unfair use of state resources, this election was cleaner than the last. The irregularities uncovered, the observers said, would

not have produced a different result. So the winner is Robert Kocharyan, who was Mr. Ter-Petrossian's prime minister and had been acting president. In that sense, Mr. Kocharyan, 43, ran as an incumbent, but he has promised a different style of rule. The winner is committed to introducing legislation to curb the president's wide-ranging powers in favor of Parliament and to

improve Armenia's election law. He has said he will appoint a govemment representing a broad range of parties and interests. And he has

acknowledged that Parliament, from which much of the opposition was excluded, does not fairly represent the country, suggesting that elections of lawmakers should be held

reasonably soon. All this would be welcome, and would help the new president meet the daunting challenges ahead. These are, first, in the economic sector. Armenia's first postindependence government made a good start on reform, including in turning agricultural communes into private farms. But it did not push forward fast enough, and a heavy-handed bureaucracy and widespread corruption continue to block economic growth.

Prosperity also will depend on progress in the second challenge facing Mr. Kocharyan: making peace with Armenia's neighbors. A landlocked state with an ancient history. Armenia is in a cold peace with its neighbor Azerbaijan, and its relations with neighbor Turkey are not much better. The cause is a dispute over an ethnic-Armenian enclave inside Azerbaijan called Nagorno-Karabakh, which, with Armenia's unofficial help, won a military victory over Azerbaijan after the Soviet Union collapsed. A ceasefire has not led to a peace agreement. however, despite intensive international mediation.

Now Mr. Kocharyan says the way forward is for Azerbaijan to talk directly with Karabakh; Azerbaijan says it will do so only after Karabakh accepts the "territorial integrity" of Azerbaijan — meaning that it renounce any claims to independence. The resulting stalemate helps nobody. —THE WASHINGTON POST

Herald Cribune

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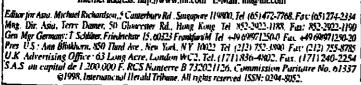
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Amid Governmental Chaos, the Judiciary Worked

B OSTON — The surprising thing is that so many people were surprised when Judge Susan Webber Wright

threw out the Paula Jones lawsuit. It was a worthless suit, reeking of politics. Most Americans thought just that. Then why the surprise? Because, as was often said before the decision. the political stakes were so high that the judge would duck it to a jury.

Judge Wright did not duck. And there is the first lesson of her decision: how important it is that we Americans have independent judges, judges prepared to decide without regard to political pressures.

Most legal experts thought Judge Wright was correct in her judgment. Some disagreed with it, but no one questioned its legitimacy. That is the respect we pay to decisions by judges whose independence is protected by the U.S. Constitution.

The judiciary is the one branch of the federal government that has that public respect today: the one seen to be functioning as it should. Congress is distorted by partisan warfare and the lust for money. The presidency has been weakened by scandal and the obsessive search for more; the obsession has gone so far that some now talk as if By Anthony Lewis

lying about sex were an impeachable High Crime.

Not that the judicial system worked perfectly in the Paula Jones case. Far from it, That is a second lesson. The way the case was handled did terrible and unnecessary damage to our politics.

The worst mistake was the Supreme Court's decision last year rejecting President Bill Clinton's request to postpone the Jones case until after his term ended. The court's opinion, by Justice John Paul Stevens, said the case should not take much of the

president's attention. Most frivolous and vexatious litigation," it said, is soon dismissed, with little if any personal involvement by the defendant.

Even as a general proposition, that notion was divorced from reality. Civil litigation these days, with its extensive pretrial discovery, can put appalling burdens on defendants. And in this particular case, Mrs. Jones's lawyers turned the discovery process into a political onslaught on the president, with salacious press releases far afield from the legal issues.

It is overwhelmingly clear now that relevant when Mrs. Jones could show no president of the United States no damage to herself. should have to defend himself against civil lawsuits while in office. Congress should act to require postponement of

such cases. Otherwise, after the example of Paula Jones, people with real or fancied grievances will be tempted to sue future presidents.

But once postponement was ruled out, did the Jones case have to be such a donnybrook before trial? To put it another way, why was the lawsuit thrown out only after Mrs. Jones's lawyers had turned the pretrial discovery process into an anti-Clinton political campaign and the two sides had run up more than \$5 million in legal fees? The answer — the fault lies in the failure of courts to control

discovery Judge Wright wanted to keep Jones v. Clinton from becoming a media cucus - wanted to deal with it as an ordinary tort action. But the higher courts have allowed wide scope for discovery, not least in sexual harassment cases. So she must have felt unable to restrain the Jones lawyers from their pursuit of other alleged victims, even though in the end they were ir-

Cheu Illie I.

There is a lesson for the press, too in the Jones case and all that sprang from it. The press has been too credulous, too ready to believe the worst about Bill Clinton, too slow to examine the bona fides and the financing of his attackers, too eager to report the unconfirmed.

For the country, the most important lesson is the first, the value of an independent judiciary. And that should lead to reflection by Congress and the president.

Congress has done severe damage to the principle of judicial independence recent years. Members have threatened to impeach judges for decisions they disliked. Congress has stripped the courts of power to review asylum and other immigration cases. It has gutted habeas corpus, the historic remedy for unjust imprisonment.

Mr. Clinton was complicit in the immigration and habeas corpus legislation's blows to the constitutional role of judges. Perhaps now he can better understand why the protective hand of independent judges is needed by immigrants, citizens and presidents.

The New York Times.

Israel at 50: A Pronounced Case of Split Personality

TEL AVIV — When you are 50 years old, you should know already who you are. The state of Israel does not.

What is it? A "Jews' state," as the founder of the Zionist movement called the future state? A "state of the Jewish people," as defined in one of Israel's laws? A state that belongs to its citizens? Or a "Jewish and democratic state," as the official doctrine, endorsed by

the Supreme Court, announces? And how can a state, whose Jews? Or just Israelis? I am a every fifth citizen is a non-Jew, be Jewish and democratic at the same time? Who is a Jew? What does a "Jewish state" mean?

Such questions may sound abstract, but they have a direct bearing on our everyday life in Israel.

In the beginning, most Zion-ists declared that "Jewish" was a purely national identity. But after a long juridical struggle, it was accepted in Israel that the only valid definition of "Jewwas religious. Israeli law says, therefore, that a Jew is a person whose mother is Jewish or who has converted to Judaism in a religious ceremony.

As Jews in Israel enjoy many overt and covert privileges, this definition is very important.

matically receive Israeli citizenship, while a Palestinian refugee in Paris, whose family had lived in Haifa for centuries, has no right to return, more or less to citizenship.

Recently it was reported that there is a secret "demographic" department in the prime minister's office, whose job is By Uri Avnery

to encourage Jewish women to that there is a huge difference bear as many children as possible and to discourage Arab women from doing so.

For most Israelis, this makes sense, since the aim of the Jewish state is to "ingather" as many Jews as possible. After all, that is the Zionist raison d'être. But who are we Israelis? Are we really Jews? A new kind of Jew? Jewish Israelis? Israeli

self primarily as a human being and then as a Hebrew-speaking Israeli of Jewish descent. Simple? In a recent opinion poll Israelis were asked how they defined their identity. Thirty-four percent answered "Jew-

convinced atheist; I think of my-

ish," 35 percent "Israeli," 30 percent "Jewish and Israeli." Among those who defined themselves as left-wing, 60 percent answered "Israeli." Among 12-to 18-year-olds, 44.5 percent answered "Israeli."

Are Israelis really Jews in the accepted sense? A Polish friend told me about an acquaintance in Warsaw who had visited Israel for the first time. He told him breathlessly: "Do you know what? In Israel there are

in Eastern Europe. This Pole had probably never before seen a Jew, but in folklore shops in Poland you find. among other wooden figures of Polish types, Jewish musicians dressed in black gowns and hats.

This sounds like a joke, but it

between Jews and Israelis. Even a casual observer perceives that over the last generations, Jews in Palestine/Israel have become a new people. The religion, too, has changed. The ultranationalistic, messianic tribal religion of today's settler movement, which now plays such a big role in Israeli politics, bears little resemb-

lance to the humanistic Jewish religion of Western Europe. The main thing that ties Israelis to the Jews everywhere is the memory of the Holocaust and preceding persecutions. Indeed, the great Orthodox philosopher Yeshayahu Leibowitz alleged that the Jewish religion had died 200 years ago, and that the Holocaust was a kind of ersatz religion, the only thing that Jews around the world have

in common. There is a certain danger in this remembrance. One cannot, one should not, forget this monstrous chapter because that would be treason to the memory of the victims — our relatives, our flesh and blood.

But this remembrance comes with the conviction that not If Israel is a Jewish state, it Jews, too!" He meant, of only the Nazis, not only the seems logical that a Jew in Paris course, Orthodox Jews, those Germans, were to blame, but all industrialized mass murder was in progress. This is a notion that comes naturally, nearly inevitably, to Jews. But for Israelis it is dangerous.

If one grows up with the conviction that the whole non-Jewish world wants only to annihilate the Jews — indeed, that isn't. Everybody understands the whole of human history is

nothing but a chain of anti-Jew- cated and the religious Jews of ish persecutions -- and that Israelis are Jews like any other, then the logical conclusion is that we Israelis cannot make

stantly on guard. It is difficult to understand the Israeli reaction after the Oslo peace accords without grasping the important role of this conviction in our political life.

illusion, that we must be con-

Yet Israel is a new nation. Millions of people were transplanted not only from one country to another but also from one culture to another, from one language to another, from one climate to another, from one way of life to another, from one geopolitical situation to another, often also from one social class to another.

It would have been a wonder if nothing new came out of

This new nation, Israel, is suffering from great inner suesses. Today, 50 years after the official creation of the state, a deep rift passes through its middle. We refer to "left" and 'right," but these terms have little resemblance to the way they are understood in Europe. Generally speaking, "left"

in Israel means the social and economic upper classes, the has the right to immigrate to who wear black gowns and hats, the other peoples, too - all who Jews of European origin educated, the non- and anti-religious. This left is reinforced by practically all of the Arab citizens of Israel - a national minority of nearly 20 percent.

"Right" means the socially and economically underprivileged, the Jews of Oriental descent (often referred to as 'Sephardim'), the less edu-

all shades.

The rift between the two camps is widening constantly. Some speak already of "two peoples," the left based in Tel peace, that peace is a dangerous Aviv. the right in Jerusalem. When the left's Shimon Peres faced the right's Benjamin Netanyahu two years ago, the election results showed that each camp commands almost exactly

50 percent of the vote. The rift runs through all the problems of Israeli society: state and religion (the right prevents any separation); the constitution (the religious do not want one): the laws and the Supreme Court (too liberal for the religious); the educational system (dominated by the religious); the Arab minority in Israel proper (equal rights on paper only). Even music is involved: the left's pop

versus Oriental songs. The peace process has fallen into this abyss. The right has condemned the "Ashkenazi" Oslo agreement; a rightist religious fanatic murdered Yitzhak Rabin, an Ashkenazi par excellence, at a leftist mass meeting.

For rightists, "Greater Israel" is vastly more important than peace. Ironically, their leader, Mr. Netanyahu, is a typical Ashkenazi son of the upper

How will Israel develop over knows. Only one thing is certain: It will remain an interesting country.

The writer is a former member of the Knesset and a leader of the Israeli Peace Bloc, or Gush Shalom. He contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

Drawing the Appropriate Lessons From the Asia Crisis

W ASHINGTON — The fi-nancial crisis in East Asia has been very challenging, but

perhaps we still face the greatest challenge of all — to draw the appropriate lessons from this experience and act on them. Recent events have prompted a great deal of reflection and the IMF and among the gov-

soul-searching - both within ernments that are our shareholders -- about what more could be done to prevent such crises, how to deal more effectively with those that arise and how, in general, we could make the Fund an even more effective institution.

The primary focus of the IMF is on sound money, prudent fiscal policies and open markets. We must maintain that emphasis because those are the prerequisites for economic growth and financial stability. Yet I believe that we must broaden the scope of our concerns to include other elements that, in a globalized world, are also important

in achieving these goals. They include creating a more level playing field for the private sector by dismantling monopolies and setting up simpler, more transparent regulatory systems; stronger banking systems that protect small depositors' savings and are freed from government intervention in the allocation of credit, so that they can channel it not just to a favored few but to those who will use it productively, and reductions in unproductive government spending, such as costly military buildups, prestige projects and subsidies and guarantees to favored sec-

The new elements would also include higher and more costeffective spending on primary health care and education; adequate social protection for the poor, unemployed and other vulnerable groups; environ- alize capital flows in a prudent mental protection; greater and properly sequenced way transparency and accountabil-

tors and firms.

By Michel Camdessus

The writer is managing director of the International Monetary Fund. Second of two parts.

ical support for adjustment and reform, and to ensure that all segments benefit from the resumption of growth while core labor rights are protected. The crisis in Asia has underscored the importance of these elements. Indeed, in many respects they are the bedrock of

of civil society to increase polit-

the programs we are supporting in the region. But our concerns about these issues do not begin and end in Asia. We are emphasizing these points in many other member countries as well because we think we can, and should, do more about them. What about crisis prevention? This will not be an easy task, but

already there are a number of good ideas on the table: • First, we must continue to encourage countries to improve the quality of information that they make available to the IMF and the public.

· Second, we must find ways to strengthen domestic financial systems by improving domestic regulation and supervision and increasing financial sector transparency. Over the past year or so, the IMF has helped develop a set of "best practices" in the banking area, so that practices that have worked well in some countries can be adapted to and applied in others. We are now disseminating these best practices around the world through our policy dialogues with member countries.

• Third, as we push even harder for trade liberalization, and as nations open their economies to foreign capital, we must encourage them to liberthat will maximize the benefits affairs, and a more effective capital movements. Work is un-ternet bulletin board so that the

dialogue with labor and the rest der way on an amendment to the IMF's charter that would make the liberalization of capital movements one of the purposes of the Fund and extend its jurisdiction to such movements.

• Fourth, we must continue to pursue good governance and intensify the fight against corruption. Our approach is to encourage countries to maximize the transparency of government operations and thus minimize the opportunities for special favors. But we are also prepared to interrupt IMF-supported programs on grounds of corruption (and we have already done so in a number of cases) when it threatens to have a macro-

economic dimension. As the IMF presses its members to become more open, the question arises: Does the Fund itself practice what it preaches? In recent years, we have made a major effort to provide more

information to the public. Looking ahead, I think that the crisis in Asia will be a watershed, convincing many members of the benefits of greater transparency. This will enable the Fund to become more open in the future, an objective I very much support, even if we are dependent on the consent of our members. The more vexing question is

whether the IMF should blow the whistle on a country it thinks is heading for a crisis. The danger, of course, is that our predictions may not always be right. Moreover, our warnings could provoke the very crises we are trying to prevent. It is far better for market participants to come to their own conclusions. That is why we have set up standards to guide members in releasing reliable data to ity in government and corporate and minimize the risks of freer the public, along with an In-

public can track the practices of they have sufficient resources individual countries. The international community

cannot realistically expect to avert every potential financial or economic crisis. So what else can be done to ensure that future trouble can be handled effec-

Certainly, better ways need to be found to involve the private sector in official efforts to resolve debt crises and avoid the problem of moral hazard, perhaps through orderly mechanisms for settling and restructuring debts. Countries should also be encouraged to strengthen the laws and institutions covering debtor-creditor relations, including domestic insolvency laws.

In addition, we need to en-hance the effectiveness of multilateral institutions, which includes, of course, ensuring that and personnel of the highest

caliber to do their jobs. The IMF cannot perform a: central role in crisis prevention or management - or do its part in addressing financial problems that exceed the capacity of individual countries to resolve alone and in a way that shares the burden fairly - unless it

has adequate resources. There are still major risks in the world economy. Thus it is a matter of concern that the IMF's usable funds have dropped to a level that leaves it little room for maneuver to respond to a new crisis.

This comment was adapted by the International Herald & Tribune from a speech by the writer to the National Press

Club in Washington on April 2.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1898: Catalan Longing BARCELONA - The Van-

guardia voices the unanimous desire of the Catalans. They have more solid reasons for longing for peace than anyone else in Spain. Everyone agrees that the loss to commerce since the insurrection began in Cuba, and particularly since relations with the United States have been strained, is frightful. The business men tell that the commercial depression reigning in this, the richest, part of the country amounts to a menace to

1923: Foolish Slang

the existence of the people.

PARIS - The Herald says in an Editorial:] Novelty seems to appeal to us moderns in connection with almost every imaginable subject. But novelty, whenever mal-apropos, is afflicting to all except the frankly vulgar. A fact in point is the

rapid invasion of the common English tongue by slang. Many valuable additions to the vocabulary have their origin in slang, but the forcing of unnecessary or incongruous slang into the everyday conversation is as foolish as it is offensive.

1948: Finn-Soviet Pact LONDON - Finland signed a

treaty with Russia pledging herself to fight "within the boundaries of her frontiers" in the event that either she or Russia is attacked by Germany or "another state allied with her." The Finns thus apparently won two major concessions in longdrawn-out negotiations which started on February 28. They will not have to fight outside their own territory, and Russian troops will not enter Finnish territory without prior negotiations. Finland also won a pledge of Russian non-interference in her internal affairs in the treaty.

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OPINION/LETTERS

Briant when Mrs. Jones Could stok There is a lesson for the press has been lone ready to believe the work been to ready to believe the work been and find the standard the financine. to easer to easer to is attackers, too eager to tepon to

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The New York Town

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A New Elite Is Busily Changing the Way America Works BOSTON — US Airways recently removed a row of coach seats in each wide-body plane to make room for a new luxurious business-class service. The dis-

taring the state of the state of the

tance between rows in the new section is 55 inches, compared with 31 inches in coach. Other airlines are also expanding their ury apartments and co-ops. Wherever space groundskeepers and 39 percent more resaccommodations for travelers in business class, as well as in first class.

The ranks of America's affluent are growing, and the market is responding -- creating superior spaces and services for them. But this new class of the wealthy has habits unlike those of the rich in earlier times. Today's business and professional elite — investment bankers, corporation lawyers, jackpot entrepreneurs, real estate developers, entertainment moguls -- is in constant motion.

They work and play on the run and are money-rich but time-poor. Rather than spend a fortune on fox hunts or long cruises, they spend a lot on what they need.

These changes in how the rich live are reflected in the marketplace. First- and business-class seats now account for more than 22 percent of U.S. airlines' domestic passenger revenue, up from 9.5 percent in 1987, according to the Air Transport Association. No wonder there has been a growth in luxury services at the front of their planes. The new elite also demands premium ground transportation, which explains the surge in limousine services and sales of luxury cars.

In this new economy, the middle class is offer advice. The best hotels have platoons of getting squeezed, sometimes literally, Expanding the front of the plane makes less leg room in coach class, and the seats are nar-

By Robert B. Reich

There is also a squeeze in real estate costs. The busy rich have to live somewhere, so the residential market is quickly shifting to luxis limited, a larger portion of it is going upscale. As the cost of real estate soars, the middle-class is being pushed out. In New York City, two-bedroom apartments that went for \$240,000 two years ago now cost \$300,000 and up.

Not only does the new elite get more space. It also gets more attention. The front of the plane has far more flight attendants per person than in coach, and they respond to call buttons more quickly. The airline's VIP lounge is staffed by several friendly souls who hurry passengers through check-in lines.

Limousine services answer the phones more quickly than taxis do because they are better staffed. Luxury-car dealerships have more mechanics on hand to service the cars, so the wan is shorter.

Increasingly, the quality most sought after by the new elite is personal care. What makes an apartment truly deluxe is the custodians who respond quickly and the doormen who of machines? take packages. What distinguishes the highend boutiques and tony retail stores from the mass-market department stores is the abundance of salespeople who hover tactfully, and obliging clerks and charming concierges.

And the new elite has no shortage of specialized care: personal trainers, masseurs, service" pumps. We'll take the cheap gas. physical therapists, guides, counselors, dec-

lives and bodies more efficient.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has esphysical therapists in 2005 than there were in the city. 1990, 40 percent more gardeners and

In the new economy, the middle class is getting squeezed - literally.

taurant cooks, maître d's and hotel personnel. Productivity is not growing much in this large and expanding sector of the economy, because the quality of personal attentiveness improves when there are more people available to provide it.

Meanwhile, the squeezed middle is getting less personal attention, in case you hadn't noticed. As the labor market moves upscale, whatever services are still available to the middle are becoming automated and digitized. Remember when telephone operators and bank tellers were human beings instead

By the year 2005, the number of bank tellers will drop by 25 percent, switchboard operators by 24 percent and service station attendants by 17 percent. Personal service is just too expensive for most people, these days. We would rather get the bargain-base-ment air fare without the frills. Forget "full

But there is an irony. Most of the tens of

Regarding

Outflanks U.S. in Battle Over

If Yugoslavia grants Ser-

bia's formerly autonomous

province of Kosovo the status

of republic, what is to prevent

the international community.

at some politically conveni-

ent point in the near future,

from yet again violating the

sovereignty of Yugoslavia by

recognizing Kosovo's inde-

pendence, just as it did to four

of the former Yugoslavia's

six republics in 1991-1992?

Full Fares First?

MICHAEL PRAVICA.

Regarding "Fuller Service

for Full-Fare Fliers" (April

Massachusetts.

Sanctions" (March 24):

orators, planners and advisers to make their millions of personal-attention jobs created in recent years to cater to the new elite are being done by the same middle that is being timated that there will be 76 percent more squeezed in the back of the plane and out of

> They used to be bank teliers, telephone operators, garage mechanics and factory workers. Their work often benefited people like themselves. But now they have been pushed out of the old jobs and into new jobs whose value is measured by the quality of their attentiveness to people who live much better than they do, and better than their neighbors.

> The old moneyed class of the Gilded Age had servants from the other side of town, of course, and the servants cleaned rooms and drove carriages they never could have afforded themselves. But large-scale industrialization gradually changed all this, creating a mass market for mass-produced goods and standardized services, while building a huge middle class. That was the great achievement of modern capitalism, and it strengthened society as well as the economy.

> The emerging economy is not taking us Americans backward, but it does seem to be moving us toward a new kind of social divide, between the very rich and the middle class. As long as the buoyant economy continues to lift most of us, not too many are complaining, at least not very much.

> The writer, a professor of social and ecunomic policy at Brandeis University's Heller Graduate School, was secretary of labor in the first Clinton administration. He contributed this comment to The New York Times.

> > influence of seeing "Titanic"

of an emergency.

for the second time, but I won-

J. L. AUDETTE de la

Letters intended for pub-lication should be addressed

"Letters to the Editor" and

contain the writer's signature

name and full address. Letters

should be brief and are sub-

ject to editing. We cannot be responsible for the return of unsolicited manuscripts.

POINTE.

Alès, France.

Frightening Nights Of the Expat Life

By Barbara Rosen

up to bed, knowing our 11/2- morning with her two chilyear-old son's barky cough dren for Paris. She is ready to could well portend a long night come at my say-so. steaming up the bathroom.

Having been here before, who goes to the hospital if we

MEANWHILE

cannot get it under control. and who stays home with our 41/2-year-old daughter. I'm to

Suddenly, I hear a strange, strangled sound over the baby monitor. We rush upstairs to find our son in distress. He is well. We have only been here having trouble breathing, much less coughing. We rush into the bathroom, but the steam does not help and he is getting upset — which makes

croup a lot worse. We grab his coat and hoping the night air will shock his airways open. I run back in for diaper bag, mobile phone and favorite teddy bear. We buckle him struggling

and crying into his car seat. They drive off and I go back into the house, still running. He's never been this bad

before. I cannot just sit. I start looking for someone to stay with my sleeping daughter. The friendly family across the road has apparently gone Perhaps I am still under the away, nanny and all. Two of my daughter's school friends live close by; no answer at der whether the poorer service either home.

for discount fares might in-I know our two main baby sitters are out with their boyclude an "everyone for himfriends on this Valentine's self' approach in case of a crash. Airlines could warn Day 1998. One, reached on her mobile phone, promises customers who seek discounts that besides a lack of courtesy to call when the couple she is they will get little help in case sitting for gets home but warns it could be very late.

I try my closest friend here, who lives a good half-hour's drive away. She goes on standby to receive my daughter, in case we have to hop a cab to the hospital and pick up the car there. I'd hate to wake my girl panicked in the dead of night and drag her into a city emergency room, then into a home she hardly knows. I try another school

ONDON - We make an nearer, knowing full well she earlyish cup of tea to bring is leaving first thing in the

My husband calls. They have not seen the doctor yel, we have already discussed but our son is breathing a bit better. I look around and start doing all those stupid, useless things. Combing my hair. Stressed, waiting, tired.

Back in Brussels, we had had four years to put into-place the kind of surrogate safety net that expats rely on. Half a dozen friends were easily reachable, with faces and homes my daughter knew a few months. I have to think before trying each person I turn to; no matter how generous and kindhearted they are, this is an imposition.

I want my mom. I want my sisters-in-law, who flew to my blanket and run out the door, side for both pregnancies. I want my brother, who offered to drive four hours to nurse me through the flu in college. I want the friends I have known for years and years. I want my people, the ones I would not think twice about calling. The ones I don't have to pay.

This expat stuff can be hard enough when you don't have kids. When you do and they're in trouble, it's for the birds. Sure, there are ways. You build your network. When the big things are in place, you remember to stash cash for emergency taxis.

You remember to take the other kid's car seat out of the car before it goes to the hospital empty.

But in the dead of night, only barely settled in, all you can hear is your toddler's sobbing, rasping voice as youforce him, terrified, into the car and onto the road to help. You feel panicked and totally alone. Your head races from one "what if" to the next. The phone rings. The

nearby mom, also an expat, is on her way over. I burst into tears and call a cab.

The writer, an American free-lance journalist based in London, contributed this comfriend's mother, who lives ment to the Herald Tribune.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Beyond Europe

The interests of the United States are served in fundamental ways by a secure and stable Europe, but Washington's global responsibilities require it to take a broader view of its security interests and requirements than in Europe alone.

The American public debate on NATO enlargement, in the Senate and elsewhere. should include the question of whether the changes in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization contribute to or detract from the ability of the United States to meet its global responsibilities in the Middle East, the Gulf and

NATO's expanded missions place added future terests apply. claims on U.S. military resources that may be needed elsewhere.

missions, or if they contributed more to U.S. military efforts to meet global security requirements outside Europe, which are in Europe's as

much as America's interests. Unfortunately, things are not encouraging on either score.

The support from America's NATO allies during the recent planned military showdown with Saddam Hussein - tepid at best with the exception of Britain — is similar to what can be expected from the countries whose flags fly with the U.S. flag in

Panmunjom, Korea. Although the United States received strong support from those countries during the Korean War, we can expect with near certainty that few if any European flags would be raised in alliance with ours in an allied military response to Asian security threats to an international order in which important trans-Atlantic in-

A 21st-century NATO is important to U.S. interests, but we do not have one yet. and will not until it includes a duced if European countries more robust European miliacquired a greater willingness tary contribution and greater and capability to perform allied consensus — or mesms for allied of the willing — on trans-Atlantic security interests "way out of area."

HOWARD K. WALKER. Chevy Chase, Maryland.

commundant of the NATO Defense College in Rome

from 1994 to 1997. Israeli Security

Regarding "Palestinians, Too, Ought to Have Security" (Opinion, March 19) by Wilid Knupp:

The writer is right in pointing out the material and psychological aspects of security. By any measures, Israel is a military superpower and Israelis, especially the settlers, are armed to the teeth. But that favorable balance of force does not and cannot give them a sense of security. At checkpoints and at the

airport, even when Israeli security officers strip Palestinions naked the officers look - and obviously feel threatened. It is the insecurity of people who know that most of the land they live on has been expropriated from the

SANA CAMPANINI.

Mr. Knapp complains of Israel's 'gross inhumanity' and enlists as proof the fact that "Palestinians can go in

and out of Gaza only with a permit." That sounds like normal border control to me.

He writes that occupation "scars the souls of the oc-cupiers." Is that what cupiers." Is that what happened to Allied troops and officials in Germany and Japan after World War II?

Excuse me if I prefer theoretical scars on my soul to the more tangible pain of picking up an abandoned package in a park and having my hands

J. S. SORKIN. Carmei Tzur, Israel.

Guns and Safety

Regarding "Guatemala Steps Up Tourist Security" (Leisure, March 27):

So, the U.S. State Department thinks that Guatemala is 2): still struggling in its battle against common crime" and that "no area in Guatemala can be definitively characterized as 'always safe.' '

May I suggest a similar warning over a large country in North America where a flourishing gun culture contributes to pervasive crime and where children have access to firearms with deadly effect? SEAN DALY.

Kosovo's Future

The Contact Group's decision to wait one month for Slobodan Milosevic to meet its terms gives the advantage to the Yugoslav president, who now is reinforcing his special police in Kosovo. Members of the six-nation group must not repeat Neville Chamberlain's blunder over Czechoslovakia by trying to appease Mr. Milosevic at the

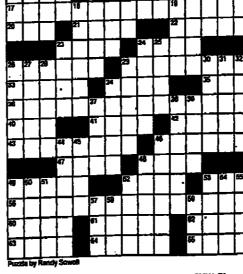
The international community often tends to disregard, or refuses to give authorization to, nationalistic movements. While it might think it has admirable reason, it should ponder this question: If not for the fervor of nationalism, would the West have beaten communism?

expense of Kosovo.

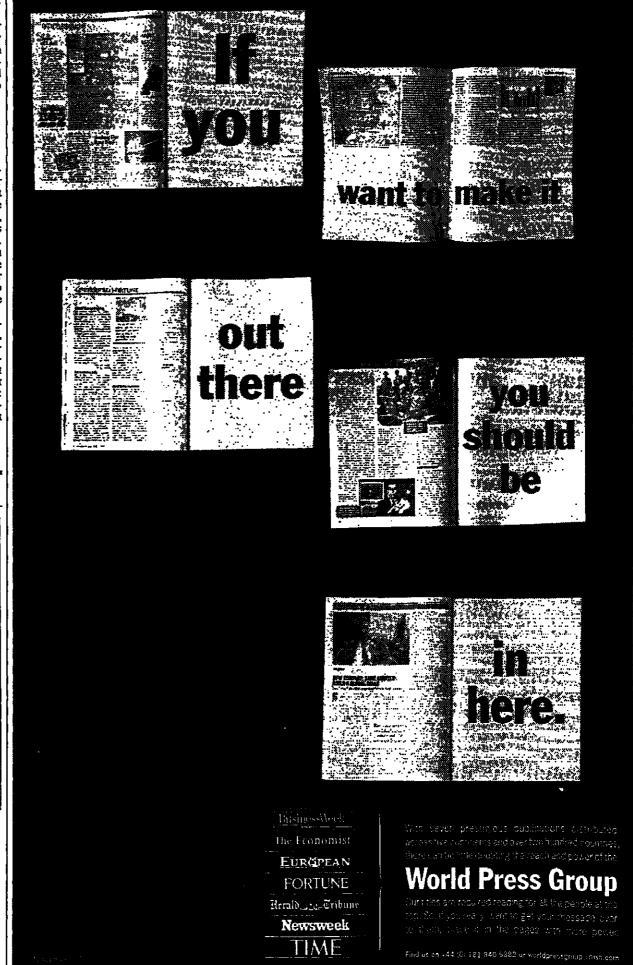
PETER B. MARTIN.

Montcuq, France.

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O New York Times/Edited by Will Shortz.



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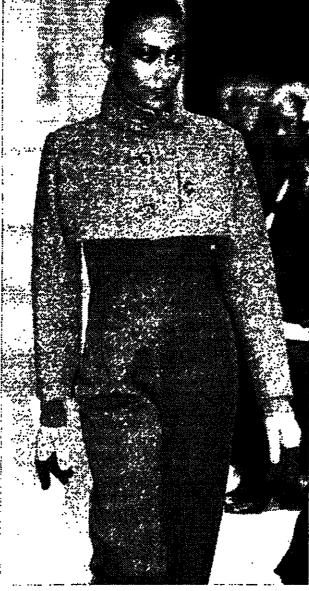
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Mishing - Bar

From left: Calvin Klein's cropped jacket and high-waist skirt; Geoffrey Beene's bolero jacket over jumpsuit: Isaac Mizrahi's striped sweater and baggy satin pants, and Donna Karan's strapless top and padded silk skirt.

By Suzy Menkes International Herald Tribune

EW YORK - Jackets sculpted with an easy swing, dresses wrapped and tied, feet in felt slippers — and a phrase to sum up this inventive new sportswear: "American Ingenuity."

But that was then — the halcyon postwar period celebrated in a new exhibition that opened last week at the Cos-turne Institute of the Metropolitan Museum (until Aug. 16). This study of American sportswear from the 1930s to 1970s shows how forward-looking those "ingenious" creators were, from the famous "popover" dress by Claire McCardell in 1948 through the bold travel coats of Bonnie Cashin

But here's a conundrum: With such a th history, why didn't the leading designers in New York's fashion week explore the territory mapped out in America 50 years ago - instead of rerouting by way of Japan?

The overriding impression of last week's fall season was of clothes worked to an aesthetic pioneered by the Japanese designers Yohji Yamamoto and Rei Kawakubo of Comme des Garcons. The results were often intriguing, occasionally beautiful and sometimes more userfriendly than the uncompromising originals. But the only ingenuity was in

diverting an existing fashion current. Take Calvin Klein's show. It started strong and clear, with a new take on tailoring: brief bolero-length, squaresleeved jackets and bloused or zippered tops with high-rise, over-the-knee skirts. They made a new silhouette that seemed to be following, albeit in heavyweight or padded fabrics, the running track of Klein's airy spring sportswear.

FEW tailored pieces appeared later — powerful square-cut coats and jackets with raised seams emphasizing their austere architecture. But most of the show was dedicated to complexity. For many women, that would spell perplexity at ankle-sweeping dresses growing angular pouches at the hem or bulging with awkward wraps. Occasionally Klein would abandon the pattern-piece puzzles and concentrate on the fabric innovations — wool textured in squares like seersucker giving an illusion of plaid. That was a convincing modern way of developing a post-minimalist look

But whereas Jil Sander, who is on a similar look-to-the-East track, still keeps her essential sleek tailoring, Klein seems to be tearing out his roots - what Richard Martin, the Met's curator, calls "a Shaker-like harmony with fashion basics." An easy suit with jacket and pants? Forget it. Having established his reputation on the clean-cut simplicity descended from American designers who broke away from foreign influence, Klein

is now in thrall to European runways. Showing a newfound serenity, Donna Karan also did Yohji Yamamoto, but she made a beautiful job of it. With love poems and spiritual thoughts read on the sound track, out came sculpted shapes in

> ESCADA' in Paris

NEW COLLECTION SPRING-SUMMER

Marie-Martine 8, rue de Sèvres, Paris 6th Tel: 01 42 22 18 44

thick soft fabrics, to show the designer at peace with her image of how a modern woman wants to dress. She takes a gray felt coat, slips it over a silk dress lightly padded like a down duvet

As the models with their shiny hair and pretty pink cheeks glided down the runway, the fuzzy and shiny fabrics shimmered with light and shade — but not in the artsy way Karan has worked in recent seasons. Instead there was a new tranquillity to the sculpted, bell-shaped skirts, and if the padding sometimes seemed bulky, there were many sleek outfits like slender tunics with simple pants and a strapless top slipped over a lightly beaded stretch-cashmere skirt.

The effect was graceful, not contrived. Geoffrey Beene's collection was frustrating, because he had an ingenious idea - yet introduced it as an afterthought to familiar classics; cropped bolero jackets with jumpsuits and longer jackets with half belts. They were mostly shown with brief skirts that defined the line of what is now too short. Over-the-knee skirts and dresses made a

more comfortable modern proportion. Beene's inventive thought was to increase the visual streamlining of his clothes by using padded seams to outline the kimono shoulders of a jersey dress or trace an asymmetric line across

the bias-cut skirts. "It's very difficult to do - real cou-

Emporio Armani's tank tops with slouchy velvet pants.

NEW YORK — The New York shows closed with Giorgio

Armani's trans-Atlantic riposte to the French for banning his Paris

show last month for security reasons. The Italian designer assembled

an audience worthy of the Oscars for his Emporio Armani show on

Wall Street. Those who weren't riveted by the moist red lips and

lissome limbs of Mira Sorvino, the evergreen curves of Sophia Loren

and the star-studded front row from Robert De Niro and Martin

Scorsese through Spike Lee and "Titanic" villain Billy Zane might

have spotted slouchy velvet rapper pants, western fringing and sneakers. It seemed more like an homage to laid-back L.A. than pure

and perfect Armani, what with weird Kabuki-meets-"Star Trek"

hairstyles and an invasive sound track pounding "sexuality." But as

a PR exercise. Armani gave a stellar performance. — Suzy Menkes

Perhaps next season he can develop further this interesting concept

Isaac Mizrahi doesn't try to dig deep in fashion - and sometimes that surface skimming is just fine. His brightly colored, upbeat collection in which models smiled (a fashion-show revolution) expressed a merry spirit, enhanced by a set of colored cubes through which backstage was viewed.

'Fun and expensive'' was Mizrahi's title for his easy pieces: technicolor cashmere sweater sets, fluffy mohair sweaters and satin or tweed Oxford bags that were so wide they almost hid the cute fur-trimmed mules. For evening there was a "Wizard of Oz" feel to the prom dresses in sherbet colors.

Mizrahi is always talking up his fascination with his mother's Norman Norrell dresses, and he did weave one thread purses designed to free up American women in the 1940s were given a witty update in a scarlet satin dress with matching padded baby sling.

One test of a designer is being able to capture a current look and make it individual. With the cape a hot item, Stephen Sprouse opened his show on a high note, as hooded capes swished out in scarlet or khaki, sometimes pleated, or transformed as a jersey poncho. But the designer's ingenuity then petered out into familiar back-to-the-1960s ture," said Beene, grasping the material between finger and thumb backstage. looks with Jean-Michel Basquiat pr looks with Jean-Michel Basquiat prints

A shearling cape made a strong end-ing to the fledgling designer Andrew Dibben's show for Illia. His capsule collection in luxurious fabrics showed precise attention to detail and inventive cutting for dresses that might be pieced into patchworks of velvet or delicately ruched and seamed.

Although pantsuits have recently dominated female fashion, simple dresses were a touchstone of American sportswear. Alongside Claire McCardell's seminal creations is Diane Von

Furstenberg's 1975 wrap dress — a style that is now snapped up at flea markets.

The big surprise to me is that it is the young girls of my daughter's age who are wearing it — just like when I started this when I was in my 20s," said Von Furstenberg, who calls the wrap dress the "mother" to new styles, always in jersey, that are pulled on like a T-shirt, cut with a portrait neck or shrouded in tulle for a modern lavered look.

Vera Wang also expanded her repertoire. Known for bridal gowns, she

came up this season with light-handed but sophisticated evening dresses: slender shapes in lace, chiffon, embroidered tulle and silk jersey, with a whisper of the exotic in chinoiserie and

Todd Oldham showed a handful of owns -- just to accessorize the fantasy film he created with the model Chandra North. Although several designers are exploring different ways to present fashion, it looked like Oldham is more interested in making movies than clothes

BOOKS

HIT MAN

By Lawrence Block. 259 pages.

Reviewed by Carolyn See

MOST of these "hit man" stories first appeared in "Playboy," and it's easy to see why. They're wistful escape tales for young guys who may just be finding out that behind every bunny lurks a tedious wife-to-be, and that all those sports utility vehicle commercials on television mask a hard world where you're supposed to work at least eight hours a day at a dumb job until you die of a heart attack, and that all those beers they want you to drink will end up making you look (and think!) like Dad, over there in the

corner, beached on his Barcalounger. Oh, man! Wouldn't it be great just to live alone, in a neat little apartment with a great view of New York City, go out to movies once in a while, play some chess maybe, eat in restaurants all the time. maybe get a dog for company, and then, if you're lucky, some great girl will happen by, and you could have some fun, and maybe even some romance, but after a while she'd drift away, no hard feelings, and you could have dinner alone again? That would be heaven, wouldn't it? And to top it off, you'd get to kill somebody once in a while. You'd even get paid for doing it. Most of these wrongdoing turkeys would deserve it, God knows, so you could just live out vour life in relative peace and quiet. traveling around, socking money in safe-deposit boxes against the prover-bial rainy day. You'd be self-contained, untouched either by emotions or by those debilitating responsibilities that

turn you into an old fud.

Sounds great, doesn't it? Even I'd like it, and I'm not a guy.

Keller, the "hero" of "Hit Man," lives that life. He's low-key to the max, always wanting just a little less than he has, so he's contented, or he tries to be. But when he goes out to Oregon on a job, he can't help daydreaming about the house he could buy there, even the family he might have. Or sometimes he meets a victim who's too nice to kill, You shouldn't have to kill a decent person, and so Keller doesn't. He just declines. What a wonderful thing to have these godlike attributes - not only to take life away but also to bestow it.

Keller has two women in his life (the perfect number). One is a sweet little karmic airhead who answers an ad to walk his dog and almost immediately divines his occupation. She doesn't mind that he's a professional assassin; since we're all on some larger spiritual trip, what's so wrong, she figures, about Keller giving some people a little nudge off the planet? He finds to his delight that he's on her perfect wavelength and addresses her as "Little Pink Toes."

His other source of female companionship is Dot, office manager at his assassin business, an extremely lowrent outfit operating out of White Plains, New York. Dot is tough-talking and street-smart. The best thing about her is

that she knows all about what they both do. When their boss begins to crumble just a little, allowing himself some and wrong, Dot takes on responsibility

for solving this vexing conundrum.
You can say that "Hit Man" even obliquely brings up some of the perturbing questions of serious literature: Who are we? How do we live? What is the self? In postmodern terms, isn't the 'self" just a series of collected fictions? Keller is an innocent — at least we're meant to feel that way. He picks up clues about life and gingerly tries to incorporate them into his own existence. When he journeys to a Western town to eliminate someone, he's drawn into a series of meditations about the West and the iconic destroying stranger. Isn't he, in this not-so-random act of violence, part of that grand, patriotic

Keller learns, as he tentatively romances Little Pink Toes, that a woman can't have too many earrings, and it may

tradition?

ornaments upon her that finally sends her wafting off. Also, he needs a friend, course. When faced with a plethora of possible victims, searching for a way to decide which of them should live and which should die, he finds himself wondering: Do they like dogs or not, these possible victims? Shouldn't a dog lover be allowed to live? He doesn't know, really; he's just snatching at straws. trying to figure out how a man should live in the late 20th century.

be his conscientious lavishing of these

"Hit Man" certainly isn't a great book, but it's pleasing in the way that "L.A. Confidential" (the movie, not the novel) is pleasing. As a book, "L.A. Confidential is viciously great, James Elbroy murderously putting the reader through agonizing ethical paces like a personal trainer of the mind. The movie .just leaves you pleasantly satisfied.

Carolyn Sec reviews books regularly for The Washington Post.

CHESS

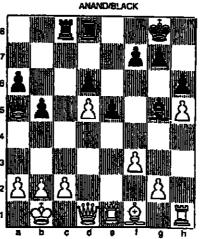
By Robert Byrne

T the Linares Supertournament in A Spain, Viswanathan Anand beat Vassili Ivanchuk in the 12th-round. Anand was, as usual, adept in positional maneuvering. He got the upper hand positionally and then put the game away with a nice combination.

The attack against the Classical Sicilian Defense with 6 Bg5, independently devised by Kurt Richter and Vsevolod Alfredovich Ranzer in the 1930's. virtually prevents 6...e5 because 7 Nf5 lets White establish a light square bind in the center after 7...Bf5 8 ef. It also prevents a transposition to a Dragon because 6...g6?! leaves Black with crippled pawns after 7 Bf6 ef.

Ivanchuk's choice of 9 f3, simply bracing the center, instead of the more aggressive mainline 9 f4, plans a kingside attack with g4, h4 and so on rather than action in the center.

After 13 h5, it is important to stop



	SICILIA	SICILIAN DEFENSE			
White Ivanchuk	Black Anand	White Ivanchuk	Black Anan		
l es	ය ්	15 Ne2	Rac8		
l e4 2 Nf3	d6	16 Qd2	RId8		
3 d4	cd	17 ŘeI	e 5		
4 Nd4	Nf6	18 Bf6	Bf6		
5 Nc3	Net	19 Nc3	Bg5		
6 Bg5	e6	20 Qd1	Qa5		
7 Qd2	Be7	21 Nd5	Bd5		
8 0-0-0	0-0	22 ed	Rc2		
9 13	Nd4	23 Kc2	Qa2		
10 Qd4	a6	24 f4	Rc8		
11 h4	b5	25 Kd2	Bf4		
12 Kb1	Qc7	26 Ke2	Qb2		
13 h5	ρę	27 Kf3	Rcl		
14 Bb4	Bb?	28 Resign	IS.		

White from playing 14 h6. Moreover, 13...h6 is not a serious weakness because once White has thrust h5, it is not so easy for him to get in g4 and g5 to open the h file.

It is evident after 16...Rfd8 that Black has the initiative. White's strategy has just been too passive.

After 17 Rel, it would not have been wise for Anand to take a pawn with 17...d5 18 e5!? Qe5 because 19 Bg3 Qf5 20 Nd4 Qh7 21 Bd3 Qh8 gives Ivanchuk positional advantage to com-

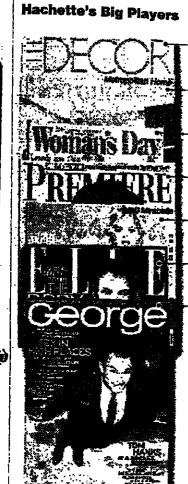
pensate for the sacrificed pawn. After Anand's 20...Qa5, Ivanchuk had to look out for 21...Rc3!?, breaking up the white king position; 21 Nd5 was forced, but after 21...Bd5 22 ed, Anand struck a tremendous blow against the

enemy king with 22...Rc2!
After 23 Kc2 Qa2, the black king could not run back to shelter. And Ivanchuk could not block the c file with 24 Re4 Rc8 25 Bc4 bc 26 Kc3 f5 27 Re2 Rb8 because of 28 b4 Qa3 29 Kc2 Qb3 mate. In this line, 26 Qal would be smashed by 26...Qb3 27 Kb1 Qd3 28

Ka2 Rc5 29 Qe1Bd2 Ivanchuk saw that 28 Qe2 Qc3 29 Kg4 Qg3 30 Kf5 g6 leads to 31 Ke4 f5

Position after 22 ed mate and gave up. صكذا من الاعل

Min Ahead



Average paid Ads sold 434,387 **DOWN 0.5%** UP 3.2% FROM 1996 FROM 1996 613,080 DOWN 1.0% UP 7.7% 4,461,023 1,810 UP 8.7% DOWN 1.0% DOWN 2.1% 563,202 DOWN 7.9% UP 6.4%

948.014 UP 2.6% UP 14.9%

*For the six months ended Dec. 31, 1997. †Measured in whole pages

of advertisements ⁵Complete data for George were not available.

Sources: Audit Bureau of Circu



David Pecker, chief executive of Hachette Filipacchi Magazines, who has cultivated a roguish image while building an impressive publishing empire.

Shareholder Rights Go Global

Merger Mania Spurs

A World Stock Rally

NEW YORK - Blue-chip stocks in

the United States and Europe raced to

records Monday after Citicorp and

Travelers Group said they would merge, which raised expectations for more

high-priced, high-profile corporate

The Dow Jones industrial average vaulted above the 9,000-point mark to a

record, setting off record rallies for other major stock indexes in Germany,

Spain, the Netherlands, Switzerland,

more corporate activity in the banking sector," said Stephen Dowds, chief in-

vestment director at Matheson Investment Management. "It's symptomatic

'There's undoubtedly going to be

Britain, Belgium and Sweden.

By Kenneth N. Gilpin New York Times Service

NEW YORK - Once seen as the exclusive concern of a handful of U.S. shareholder groups, corporate-gov-ernance issues are going global.

That reality was driven home last week when an international panel submitted recommendations to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development intended to improve the accountability of non-U.S. companies to their shareholders.

It was underscored Monday with the release of an international survey of more than 350 institutional investors commissioned by Russell Reynolds Associates, an executive-search firm.

The survey, called "Furthering the Global Dialogue on Corporate Governance," polled fund managers and institutional shareholders in Australia, France, Britain and the United States.

"This survey is mirroring the flow of capital and the internationalization of capital markets," said John Hawkins, managing director of the global-board

Swiss Bank, which is merging with Union Bank of Switzerland in a \$33 billion transaction, closed at 580 Swiss francs (\$380.50), up 20. UBS rose 92 francs to 2,700. Shares of the other big Swiss bank, Credit Suisse, rose 16 to close at a record 341.

All three big Swiss banks have ex-tensive worldwide operations in banking and investment banking.

In France, Banque Nationale de Paris rose 4.6 percent to 546 francs (\$88.17), while Societe Generale gained 2.8 per-

cent to 1,352. 'With giants like Citigroup out there, French banks will have to merge or die," said Philippe Setbon, a fund manager with Boissy Gestion. Citigroup is to be the name of the combined company

of what's happening in the industry. The after Citicorp and Travelers merge. U.S. is leading the way."

Financial institutions worldwide are The rally in financial shares "shows no one is immune to merging," said Edward G. Riley, chief investment ofconsolidating to increase their market penetration, cut costs or expand into ficer at BankBoston Corp. new businesses and thereby improve

See MARKETS, Page 12

Publishing's Bad Boy Finally Gets Some Respect

By Robin Pogrebin New York Times Service

NEW YORK — David Pecker used) to be pegged as the bad boy of U.S. magazine publishing. Some people in the industry compared him to a used-car salesman. Others called him a "bottomfisher" with a "bargain-basement"

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To some extent, Mr. Pecker earned this reputation. He bought foundering publications and cut the staffs to reduce costs and make the magazines profitable.

He offered deep discounts and snazzy marketing ideas for big advertisers; he rejected membership in the Magazine Publishers of America, the industry association; he bought a full-page ad in large newspapers to criticize a com-

petitor's ad strategy; and he killed a article in one of his magazines to appease a big advertiser, prompting his top editors to quit.

Moreover, Mr. Pecker seems to have cultivated a roguish, attention-getting image. With long slicked-back hair and a pronounced mustache, he has posed for photographs in double-breasted suits with a shotgun or a cigar.

But in his eight years as president and chief executive of Hachette Filipacchi Magazines, Mr. Pecker, 46, has built his company into a serious competitor. He made Elle the No. 2 fashion magazine behind Vogue and ahead of Harper's Bazaar, turned heads by starting George magazine with John F. Kennedy Jr. and recently took over third place in total ad pages from Hearst Magazines, behind

Time Inc. and Conde Nast Publications. So the buzz on Mr. Pecker has begun to change. Now a number of his fellow executives speak of him with a grudging respect; and the media world has gen-

erally begun to pay attention. In part, this is because of his success. But it is also because much of the industry has come around to Mr. Pecker's way of doing business: being highly flexible on ad rates, offering elaborate marketing partnerships and openly accepting the idea that editors as well as publishers must be accountable for a magazine's bottom line.

He's not thumbing his nose at the industry," said Kent Brownridge, senior vice president at Wenner Media, which publishes Rolling Stone. "He's saying: 'This is a business to make money. I will use my people and resources to make the most money in the best way I know how."

Mr. Pecker has expanded Hachette which is owned by the French company Hachette Filipacchi Media, a unit of Lagardere Group — from 14 magazines in six markets with profit of \$30 million on revenue of \$300 million to 30 magazines in 17 markets with profit of \$82 million on revenue of \$600 million. He has made a success out of magazines such as Metropolitan Home and Car &

Lagardere's chief executive, Arnaud Lagardere, said Sunday that he was planning to give Mr. Pecker the added responsibility this summer of running

See HACHETTE, Page 15

practice at Russell Reynolds. Because three-quarters of the in-

vestors surveyed have holdings in companies outside their organization's home country, it is perhaps not surprising that a significant percentage endorsed the development of a global set of corporate-governance standards.

More than 25 percent of U.S. institutions said the realization of that goal was either extremely important or very important to them; the figure was more than 60 percent in France, 52 percent in Australia and 27 percent in Britain.

Sixteen percent of the U.S. organizations surveyed said that in the past year they had participated in four or more investor activities such as voting for a shareholder resolution or writing a letter to a company's board to relay the institution's point of view. In 1996, only 6 percent of those who responded to the poll reported that level of activity. Last year, 25 percent of the U.S. institutions surveyed said that the quality of a company's board was an important factor in making an investment decision. In this year's survey, the figure is 35 percent.

Thinking Ahead /Commentary

Time for an Atlantic Trade Dialogue

By Reginald Dale International Herald Tribune

SULPHUR SPRINGS, West Virginia - Is it time for a bold new plan to bring the two sides of the Atlantic closer together? Many Europeans and some Americans think so — although there are big differences over what kind of initiative is needed.

Now, the European Commission has brought the issue into sharper focus with a proposal for a New Transatlantic principal remaining barriers to trade and investment between the European Union and the United States.

The idea is for business to operate under the same rules on both sides of to go much further than the Americans the Atlantic, allowing goods, services and capital to circulate freely. To dispel fears that the world's two biggest traders were ganging up against the rest, the commission emphasizes that it is not suggesting a classic preferential free-trade area like the North American Free Trade Agreement.

On the contrary, the benefits would

Washington and head off isolationist tendencies in the United States.

Despite all these landable objecservations on both sides of the Atlantic, especially over agriculture — with France fearing that its farmers will be forced into concessions in the talks and Washington afraid that they won't.

Widely differing assessments of the plan were expressed at a meeting here of the Transatlantic Policy Network, a group comprising members of the European Parliament and the U.S. Marketplace that would eliminate the Congress and business representatives, which seeks to promote closer relations between the EU and the United

> Most European participants wanted — notably by starting to apply the techniques of European economic integration, painstakingly developed over the past 40 years, to the Atlantic relationship.

THERE was grandiose talk of extending the EU single market to the United States, of shared as far as possible be extended to other trading partners, and World Trade Organization rules would be scrupulously respected. Indeed, a main aim would be respected.

of multilateral trade negotiations.
But the plan goes deeper than trade.
An equally important aim would be to lay the foundations for broader political cooperation between the EU and work for the original European Community in 1957.
Such ambitious thinking runs far ahead of anything likely to be acceptable in a Washington wary of almost any new foreign economic entanglements.

They should lan new trans-Atlantic trade monetary dialogue too.

Internet address thinkahead@washpost

But the inward-looking mood of America is itself a reason that some of the more pro-European members tives, the plan has run into strong re- of Congress favor a new initiative. They hope it will help to get American attention back to the benefits of international trade and show that there is more to U.S.-EU relations than squabbling over economic sanc-

> For its part, President Bill Clinton's administration will respond to the Europeans with its own version of a new trade deal, perhaps even a more far-reaching economic "partnership." But it will not be easy to muster the necessary political momentum on either side.

> It is well worth a try. Experience suggests that the European Union is most viable as a partner for the United States in areas where it has achieved strong central decision-making and a global reach and can negotiate on a basis of equality. Trade is the prime area that fulfills those criteria, but with the EU's move to a single currency,

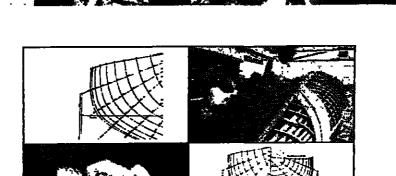
money will soon follow.
On May 18, Mr. Clinton and his work for the original European Com-munity in 1957.

Internet address: thinkahead@washpost.com

April 6

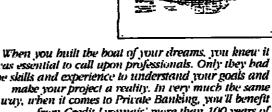
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CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

April 6 Libid-Libor Rates

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Very briefly:

- Viad Corp. agreed to buy Money Gram Payment Systems Inc. for \$17 a share, or about \$287 million, to better compete in the rapidly growing consumer wire-transfer industry.
- After-tax profits of American manufacturing companies averaged a seasonally adjusted 6.1 cents for each dollar of sales in the fourth quarter of 1997, the Commerce Department said. down from 6.3 cents in the third quarter and even with 6.1 cents a year earlier. Total seasonally adjusted profits were \$61.06 billion on sales of \$997.50 billion in the fourth quarter.
- Intel Corp. gave its chairman and chief executive officer, Andrew Grove, compensation of more than \$3 million in 1997, a proxy statement said. Mr. Grove is to step aside as chief executive next month but remain chairman.
- TrizecHahn Corp. agreed to sell its retail property holdings to Rouse Co. and Westfield America Inc. for \$2.55 billion. TrizecHahn said that after retirement of debt it would net \$1.2
- Tandy Corp., owner of RadioShack and Computer City stores, said its chief executive officer, John Roach, would retire at year-end and be succeeded by its president, Leonard Bloomberg, Reuters

Weekend Box Office

LOS ANGELES — "Lost in Space" dominated the U.S. box office over the weekend, with a gross of \$20.5 million. Following are the Top 10 moneymakers, based on estimates for Friday through Sunday.

1. Last in Space 2. Tritanic 3. Mercury Rising 4.Grease 5. Primary Cotors 6. Wild Things 7. The Man in the Iran Mask 8. As Good as It Gets	(New Line Cinema) (Twertich Certury-Fac) (Universal) (Paramount) (Universal) (Cotumbla Pictures) (United Artists) (Tristar)	\$20.5 million \$11.6 million \$10.8 million \$5.5 million \$4.7 million \$3.7 million \$3.5 million \$3.4 million

Mark Rises Amid Signs Of Growth

NEW YORK — The dollar fell against the Deutsche mark Monday on signs that economic growth in Germany was picking up, luring investors to the country's financial assets and the marks to pay for them.

Orders to German manufacturers unexpectedly rose 0.1 percent in February, figures showed Monday, and a report Tuesday is likely to show that unemployment fell last month, according to the German weekly magazine Focus.

"The mark looks as if it's on the verge of a recovery," said Adrian Cunningham, director of economics at Scottish Mutual Portfolio

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Managers in Edinburgh. "There is clear evidence European economies are picking up. In 4 P.M. trading, the dollar fell to 1.8406 DM from 1.8472 DM on Friday.

The U.S. currency also slipped against the yen amid speculation the Bank of Japan might sell dollars and after Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said Japan was ready to take bold measures to help its economy.

The dollar was quoted at 134.705 yen, down from 135.100 yen Friday. It also stood at 1.5269 Swiss francs, compared with 1.5243 francs, and at 6.1750 French francs, down from 6.2121 francs. The pound rose to \$1.6663 from \$1.6595.

Mr. Hashimoto, speaking before the budget committee of the upper house of Parliament, said the government would take "drastic measures" to lift the economy when they were deemed necessary, repeating a pledge he made at the Asia-Europe Meeting in London over the weekend.

In Germany, the number of people out of work probably fell 193,000. to 4.6 million in March, according to Focus magazine.

"The mark is looking pretty ong," said J.P. Neergaard, manstrong," ager of foreign exchange at Den Danske Bank in New York. We've been seeing some strong figures out of Germany.'

Economic growth in the United States is expected to slow this year, while many economists expect German growth to expand at a faster clip than last year. That, too, may help the mark gain in coming months.

Bonn forecast the economy

would grow between 2.5 percent and 3 percent this year, compared with 2.2 percent last year.

Microsoft's Co-Founder Plans a Cable Buy

Compiled to Our Suff From Dispatches

DALLAS - Paul Allen, a cofounder of Microsoft Corp., said Monday he would buy all the limited-partnership interests in Marcus Cable Co., the largest closely held cable-television company in the United States, for \$2.78 billion.

Representatives for Mr. Allen said it would be his largest acquisition outside of Microsoft.

Published reports said Mr. Allen eventually hoped to knit together enough cable systems to build a big such as internet access, over cable-TV lines. Marcus Cable is the ninthlargest U.S. cable-TV operator. It has 1.1 million customers in 18 states.

Goldman, Sachs & Co. owns 36 chief executive, Jeff Marcus, and his management team own 14 percent, and the rest is owned by five in- er they would file a case. vestment companies, including Hicks, Muse Tate & Furst, which has a 19 percent stake.

platform for offering new services, ner in Marcus Cable. He said he software to personal-computer of anonymity said. would take an active role in the strategic direction of the company. for public release June 25.

Separately, Microsoft's other co-founder. Bill Gates, received word Marcus executives said early last that the U.S. Justice Department of Windows 98 with all of the Internet personal computers. (Reuters, AP)

ing its Windows 98 software. but said they had not decided wheth-

A Microsoft spokesman said the company would "work very closely" with Justice Department Through the purchase of the com- investigators but said the company makers. The software is scheduled

We do not believe there is any

month they were putting the company up for sale and hoped to get S3 billion or more.

was considering a new antitrust case against the software giant concerning its Windows 98 software.

capabilities included," said Mark Murray, a Microsoft spokesman.

At Compaq Computer Corp., a

paliation investigators issued a new round representative said the company repercent of the company. Marcus's of civil subpoenas to major computer makers concerning Microsoft the Justice Department's antinust division concerning Microsoft but declined to provide any details.

Justice Department investigators have subpoenaed other major computer companies and are considering bringing a case before Microsoft releases its Windows 98 program. pany's limited-partnership interests, envisioned no delay in the planned releases its Windows 98 program, Mr. Allen would become a full part- May 15 release of its Windows 98 an official who spoke on condition

Microsoft could be charged with violating the Sherman Antitrust Acr by maintaining and extending its scenario that would delay the release control over operating software for

·Thill

National Semiconductor Defies Intel With 'PC-on-a-Chip'

SANTA CLARA, California — National Semiconductor Corp. said Monday it had designed the first chip that combined the dozens of chipmaker, which until recently has ignored the chips that made up a personal computer, a move market for low-priced PCs. The chip also will that could drastically cut the prices of PCs in a allow National Semiconductor to zero in on a challenge to Intel Corp.

Although products would not be shipped until mid-1999, Chairman Brian Halla said three companies would announce in about a month that they were using the technology. One is a top-five PC maker, another is a computerdisplay company, and the third will use the technology as an adjunct to the software it

National Semiconductor shares rose amid optimism that the new chip would give the company a way to compete with Intel the No. 1 used in television set-top boxes, and could bring market Intel is unlikely to target -- the lowestcost PCs and so-called information appliances. National Semiconductor shares rose \$3.4375

The PC-on-a-chip will be compatible with Intel technology and will run Microsoft Corp. software, including the Windows 95 and Win-

to close at \$23.6875. Intel fell \$2.875 to end at

PC prices to as low as \$400.

Since Compaq Computer Corp. introduced its less-than-\$1000 Presario PC using a chip made by Cyrix Corp., a unit of National Semiconductor, PC prices have plummeted. About 40 percent of all PCs sold this year in the U.S. will cost \$1,000 or less, according to some

That led Intel to turn its attention to a market it had virtually ceded to smaller chipmakers. Intel will introduce its Celeron chip, which is dows 98 systems. It can be plugged into just designed for that market, on April 15.

To Swallow Rival

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc. announced plans Monday for a \$1.1 billion acquisition of Coke Southwest, the fifth-largest U.S. bottler of Coca-Cola products.

The price would include acquired debt, and the deal is expected to be closed by early in the third quarter. The transaction is subject to federal

Coke Southwest, the collective name of CCBG Corp. and Texas Bottling Inc., operates in parts of Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Colorado and Kansas. It recorded operating profit of \$84 million, revenue of \$431 million and sales of 86 million cases for 1997.

Coca-Cola Enterprises is the

world's largest marketer, distributor and producer of bottled and canned nonalcoholic refreshment drinks. It sells more than 65 percent of the Coca-Cola Co.'s bottle and can volume in North America.

Coca-Cola Bottler MARKETS: Merger Mania Sends Share Prices Soaring Edify fell 61/s to 111/4 after the

Continued from Page 11

Among the gainers in U.S. financial companies were American Express, which rose 51/4 to 1041/4 to help the Dow close 49.82 points higher at a record 9,033.23.

But the euphoria over potential mergers did not extend to the broader U.S. market. The Standard & Poor's 500 index closed down 1.31 points at 1,121.39, and declining issues outnumbered advancing issues by a 3-to-2 ratio on the New York Stock Exchange.

'The big merger news is driving financial shares higher, but the next couple of weeks are going to be a difficult period for the market," said Bruce Simon, chief investment officer at Glenmede Trust Co. "We're getting into earnings season, and we know that results are going to be

Technology issues were particularly weak, with the Nasdaq com- after the software company said it selling product, tamoxifen, may be posite index falling 26.25 points to expected results for its third quarter effective in preventing breast canclose at 1,829.15. Microsoft led the to fall short of expectations.

April 6, 1998

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losers, falling 3 1/16 to 89 15/16 after the Justice Department said it was considering launching another investigation of the software company for possible antitrust violations.

Hugh Johnson, chief investment officer at First Albany, said the Microsoft news was only the latest

U.S. STOCKS

after a string of earnings and sales warnings. He said the sector was the worst performer in recent weeks.

This morning I told investors to reduce their exposure to technology in portfolios," Mr. Johnson said. Dell Computer lost 21/s to 651/4 and Lucent Technologies fell 31/4 to

database-software company expressed caution about growth in its fourth quarter ending in May.

software marketing company said it expected to post a loss for the first quarter because of delays in orders and disappointing revenue. United Technologies rose 211/16

to 97 3/16 after an analyst at Cowen & Co. recommended buying the defense contractor's stock. Casmyn was the most actively

traded U.S. stock, falling 1/64 to 1/64 blow to hit the technology sector after receiving notice from the Nasdaq market that the mining company was in danger of being delisted. Sunbeam fell 11/4 to 321/4 after the

appliance maker said it expected to report a loss amid its turnaround efforts. Gilend Sciences rose 71/8 to 431/4

after separate studies showed two of 691/2. Oracle fell 1 to 271/s after the the company's drugs were effective in reducing the level of the HIV

Barr Laboratories rose 5 15/16 to Viasoft fell 2 29/32 to 15 5/32 44 15/16 on reports that its top-(Bloomberg, Reuters, AP)

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Monday's 4 P.M. Close The 300 most traded stacks of the day, up to the closing on Wall Street.

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U. S. STOCK MARKET DIARY

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> Ballard Pwr 3 for 1 split.

INTERNATIONAL FUTURES

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2-MONTH EUROMARK (LIFFE)

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May 98 94,330 98,315 94,315 - 0.015
Sep 98 96,146 94,135 96,140 - 0.025
Dec 98 96,146 94,135 96,140 - 0.025
Dec 98 95,986 95,996 95,945 - 0.030
Sep 99 95,870 95,860 95,860 - 0.040
Jun 99 95,270 95,860 95,860 - 0.040
Jun 99 95,270 95,260 95,260 - 0.030
Dec 99 96,490 95,270 95,260 - 0.030
Dec 99 96,40 95,260 95,360 - 0.020
Est. sales: 145,725, Prov. sales: 259,002
Prev. open int. 218,884 up 24,779
Prev. open int. 218,884 up 24,779
Jun 98 96,26 96,24 96,24 - 0.01
Sep 98 96,19 96,10 96,17 96,27 9,000
Dec 98 96,00 96,79 95,77 0,000
May 99 95,47 95,80 95,84 - 0.02
Jun 99 95,77 95,70 95,77 Unch.
Sep 99 95,47 95,99 95,59 - 0.02
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Shekel Falls **Amid Fear of Devaluation**

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Compiled by Our Staff From Disputcies

TEL AVIV - The Israeli shekel fell 2.3 percent against the dollar Monday on fears that plans to make the currency convertible next month would lead to its devaluation. The dollar rose Monday to 3.701

shekels from 3.6168 shekels Friday. "People are afraid of the unknown and they don't know what will happen when the shekel becomes fully convertible," a dealer at Israel Discount Bank said.

in an attempt to calm nerves, the president of the central bank, Jacob Frenkel, said on Israeli radio that there was "no reason to panic."

'No one should exaggerate," he said. "We need to get accustomed to fluctuations in the market."

Mr. Frenkel said there were no plaus to cancel the currency re-forms. The central bank is scheduled to make the shekel fully convertible May I as part of a program to ease restrictions on the Israeli economy. At the same time, exchange controls on the shekel for individuals and companies would be lifted.

The value of the shekel is now calculated according to a basket of currencies, in which the U.S. dollar accounts for 60 percent and the Deutsche mark, the pound, the Swiss and French francs and the Japanese yen account for the balance.

The shekel is allowed to fluctuate within a margin of 15 percent above and below the basket value. Over the last months, the shekel has been at its maximum rate.

The currency reforms are timed to coincide with the celebration of Israel's 50th anniversary on April 30. A spokesman for the Israeli Manufacturers' Association complained that it was "too early to go ahead with this reform."

iling down, unemployment is con- by Vickers shareholders at a meettinuing to climb, and the political and military situation is unstable."

The director general of Mizrahi Bank, Victor Medina, said the Israeli economy "has not reached an equilibrium point, particularly with its balance of payments always run-ning at a deficit."

The private sector's jitters are

the Israeli economy over the past 18 months. According to figures from the Bank of Israel, gross domestic product growth should be only 1.5 percent to 2 percent this year, com-pared with 1.9 percent in 1997 and negotiate a new VW offer for a an average 6 percent from 1990 to month because it was legally re-1996. --- (AFP, Reuters) quired to negotiate exclusively with

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OIL DEAL - Philippe Jaffre, left, chief executive of Elf Aquitaine SA, and Mikhail Khodorkovsky, president of AO Yukos Oil Co., exchanging pens after Elf signed an agreement in Moscow on Monday to pay \$528 million for a 5 percent stake in Russia's largest oil company.

'That's It!' BMW Says of Offer for Rolls

Bayerische Motoren Werke AG said Monday it would not raise its bid for Rolls-

Royce Motor Cars Ltd. even as Volkswagen AG raised its offer for the British luxury carmaker. "We have made one offer and that is it," said Richard Gaul, a

BMW spokesman. offer for Rolls-Royce a day after BMW's £340 million bid (\$564.4 million) was accepted by Vickers

PLC, Rolls' owner. VW's new bid is reportedly about 1.3 billion Deutsche marks (\$701.3 million). Vicker's agreement with BMW He said: "The economy is slow- on March 29 must still be approved ing in May, and some have expressed disapproval of a quick sale

to BMW, saying they would vote

against the agreement if a credible, higher offer was put on the table. In an interview with the Welt am Sonntag newspaper, the BMW chief executive, Bernd Pischetsrieder, said that should Vickers' main caused in part by the slowdown in shareholders not support the management's recommendation to sell Rolls-Royce to BMW, "then they might as well force" Vickers' man-

agement to quit.
Vickers said it could not accept or

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Berlang Sports Gerthing Gotten Hope KL Kepong Mognam Mod Intil Ship F Petromas Gas Public Bir F Reserts World Richmans PM State Dorby Telekom Mod YTL YTL Power

BMW. Vickers said it could con-British car market. It took over sider other offers at the end of April, Rover Group in 1994 in a transadding that it was "duty-bound to consider other offers in the interest of its shareholders."

If VW or another company buys Rolls-Royce, BMW has said it will stop delivering engines and other parts it supplies to Rolls-Royce. BMW supplies engines for Rolls Last week, VW said it raised its and Bentley cars and anti-lock brakes, air conditioning and sus-pensions that account for 30 percent of a Rolls-Royce car.

would be its second foray into the current 1,900.

action that has yet to pay off for BMW.

BMW announced March 31 that Rover had posted a loss of 260 mil-lion DM in 1997, little changed from its loss of 279 million DM the year

BMW plans to keep Rolls-Royce's production site in Crewe, England. BMW said it would have to spend \$1.6 billion over the next 10 years to increase Rolls produc-BMW's purchase of Rolls-Royce tion to 6,000 cars a year from the

Akzo Holds Talks With Courtaulds

ARNHEM, Netherlands - Akzo Nobel NV said Monday it was holding talks with Courtaulds PLC that could lead to a cash offer for the company valued at £1.83 billion (\$3.04 billion).

The bid, at 450 pence a share, is lower than the current price for Courtaulds stock, which slipped 5 pence Monday to 465 after having risen 29 percent last week. Akzo Nobel shares rose 2.7 percent Monday, to close at 424.10 guilders (\$203.75).

A takeover of Courtaulds would make Akzo the world's largest maker of paints and coatings, creating a company with combined coatings sales of about \$5.67 billion a year. The deal also would be the latest in a series of consolidation moves in the European chemical industry. Analysts say they expect such moves to continue, as European assets appear cheaper than American ones.

While no other bidders have emerged, analysts say U.S. paint and coatings makers, such as PPG Industries Inc., Du Pont Co. and Sherwin-Williams Co., could be inter-ested. Imperial Chemical Industries PLC of Britain, the current leader in coatings, with sales of about \$3.62 billion, has also been identified by analysts as a possible bidder. But a person familiar with the matter denied that ICI was interested, and

ICI declined to comment. Akzo said it was not interested in the fibers division of Courtaulds, which it said it would combine with its own and spin off. That calls into question Akzo Nobel's preliminary greement to sell a 50 percent stake in its fibers unit to Haci Omer Sabanci Holding AS of Turkey. Akzo would not comment on the Sabanci deal.

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Very briefly:

 British manufacturing output was unchanged in February from January instead of increasing 0.2 percent as expected, providing more evidence that a strong pound is hurting exports and lessening the chance that interest rates will go up when the Bank of England's monetary policy committee meets Wednesday and Thursday.

 Eastern Germany's machinery orders surged 11.3 percent in February from a year earlier, offsetting a 0.7 percent decline in the West. Steel output rose 20.7 percent in Eastern Germany in March, pushing total German production to 4.15 million metric tons, a record.

• Berkshire Hathaway Inc., controlled by the billionaire Warren Buffett, may have sold about 30 percent of its hoard of silver, Ted Arnold, a Merrill Lynch & Co. analyst, said, quoting "some very good sources in the market." Last October, Mr. Arnold became the first to publicly signal that an investor in the silver market was building a large holding.

• Nestle SA is starting a chain of coffee shops in Britain that will serve only instant coffee.

· Siemens AG of Germany reached agreement with the metalworkers' union IG Metall on a pay settlement for about 6,000 workers at a number of Siemens units. The accord includes recommendations on performance-related and results-related pay and on flexibility in employment contracts. Mediobanca SpA began a 2.09 trillion lire (\$1.15 billion) sale of stock and warrants to fund investments in technology and research to bolster its investment-banking operations.

· Continental AG, the German tiremaker, said profit in 1997 rose 67 percent, to 322 million Deutsche marks (\$174.3 million), on reorganization efforts and booming tire sales. It also said it would propose raising its 1997 dividend to 0.70 DM a share from 0.60 DM.

 Mitsubishi Electric Corp. will close a television factory in Scotland in July, eliminating about 500 jobs.

• Itochu Corp. of Japan plans to build an 11-story office tower costing 40 billion yen (\$296 million) in London's financial district, the City. It plans to let out the entire building. which is due to be completed in 2000, to Goldman Sachs International on a 20-year lease. Bloomberg, Reuters, AFP

Murdoch Slams Europe's State TV Networks

BIRMINGHAM, England -Rupert Murdoch accused stateowned European television companies Monday of protectionism but said he would continue to try to set

up joint ventures in Europe.
Mr. Murdoch, the head of News Corp., criticized British regulators for allowing the BBC to give its new "tax-funded" 24-hour news channel to cable companies, saying the move would jeopardize commercially funded news channels such as Sky News, produced by British Sky Broadcasting Group PLC, of which

News Corp. owns 40 percent. Broadcasting Union, an alliance of Europe's state-owned TV compa-nies that bids for program rights, for, among other things, "distort-

ing competition."
Mr. Murdoch's speech at the European Audiovisual Conference in Birmingham came amid growing criticism of News Corp.'s position in the British market. BSkyB is gaining market power, and News Corp. controls 20 percent of

the British newspaper market. "we'll be left beh.
"If unhealthy concentration still isn't an option."

does exist today, it exists not in the He also criticized the European private sector but with state broad-proadcasting Union, an alliance of casting," Mr. Murdoch said. Mr. Murdoch spoke after For-

eign Secretary Robin Cook told the conference that Europe needed a new regulatory framework for the audiovisual industry.

Mr. Cook said the U.S. industry was dominant and that Washington regulated "with a light touch."

He said Europe had to match America's technology and regu-lation. "If we don't," he said, "we'll be left behind. Standing

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ASIA/PACIFIC A Bullish Fund Manager Turns Pessimistic About Asia

Bill Kaye, managing director of the Pacific Group fund-management company and its flagship Asian Hedge Fund, moved to Hong Kong in 1991 when he felt Asia was filled with investment potential. He spoke Korea and Thailand? about his changed outlook on the region with Thomas Crampton of

Q. Asian stocks and currencies rallied during the first quarter of the year. Is the crisis over?

the International Herald Tribune.

A. The rally we have seen is not sustainable and sent a dangerous message to Asia's policymakers. Capital is now flowing back into the and the crown jewels are not for million. With replacement cost analregion when very few actual changes sale. If you look at people like AIG in these economies have taken place. who have raised a lot of funds to buy At current levels the markets have assets around the region, they have priced in an awful lot of changes in not been able to put their money to culture, institutions and corporate work. Until it really hits home with governance. There is a cotton-candy aspect to this first-quarter rally, and that capital is scarce and fundamentthe currencies, outside Hong Kong, can soon expect a second wave of competitive devaluations.

Q. What about the recent high-

Q & A / Bill Kaye of Pacific Group

profile direct investments in South price discount for foreign investors?

that were played up by the press. be a bargain. Yes, Indonesia now has factory that it managed to extricate but so do some countries in Africa. It but in macro terms this was no more than a small spin-off.

Asia is not inviting foreigners in, Asian companies and governments al changes need to be made, you can expect to see the deals drying up.

Q. But don't these currency devaluations offer a straightforward

A. There is this outlook from the A. There is no Asian fire sale. U.S. that things out here are so cheap We've just seen a few isolated deals relative to elsewhere that they must BASF, for example, bought a lysine an extremely competitive currency. from a South Korean conglomerate. is deceptive logic to look at assets in It sounds like they made a good buy, terms of replacement value. You point the U.S. appetite for investing may find a brand new office block in in Asia will completely dry up. That build that is now on sale for \$50 to take place out here. ysis, this is a bargain, but the correct

Q. And won't the lower curren-

You can't move it, after all, so its

itiveness of the Thai economy.

problem is that everyone has the to keep their grip on the economy pan is in a recession and the yen is power. If Indonesia cheats on makfalling, leaving the United States as ing changes, won't everyone else? the only economy of significant size that still has robust demand.

year, the market will be vulnerable to a significant decline, and at that Bangkok that cost \$200 million to is when real changes will be forced

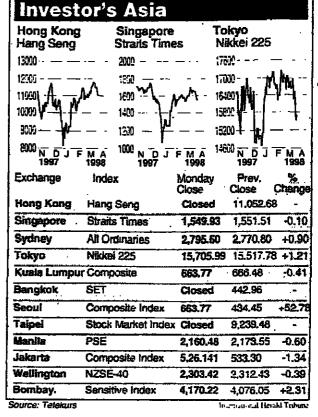
Q. Aren't Asia's fundamental changes already on the way, with way to look at the building is that it Indonesia and the International value is tied to the future competprescribed reforms?

your exports to somebody. The cessities, allowing Suharto's friends same strategy at the same time. Ja- and in the process letting him stay in

As for South Korea, they are making the right sounds, but they still So far, the U.S. has only tasted the have to make major cultural first effects of the Asian crisis, changes, Before the changes are When the full effect is felt later this complete, there is real danger that the opposition in Korea and Thailand will be swept into power, breaking the political will to make changes.

Q. You sound like a total Asia

A. You have to price in an awful lot of political, cultural and structural changes to be an optimist. I just don't was a huge mistake in the first place. Monetary Fund on the brink of a think Asia or the world is very well compromise and Thailand and set up to get the region out of this South Korea already undertaking crisis, and markets are not pricing for events which for me seem inevitable. A. Why people consider it good I was very bullish on Asia from 1991 news for the IMF to compromise to early 1993, when markets were cies increase competitiveness, bring-ing about an export-led recovery? with Indonesia is completely be-yond me. International taxpayers are yond me. International taxpayers are relative basis, but no wealth has been A. You've got to be able to sell subsidizing the country's basic ne- created in Asia in the last year or so.



Jakarta to Announce IMF Pact Wednesday

JAKARTA — The government government's decision over the said Monday it would announce weekend to shut seven banks and terms Wednesday of a revised eco-seize control of seven others - a nomic reform program worked out move praised by the IMF's deputy with the International Monetary Fund.

Over the weekend, Indonesia and Over the weekend, Indonesia and the IMF wrapped up three weeks of Monday, Mr. Fischer said disbursetalks aimed at getting a suspended \$43 billion aid package for the na- could still take weeks, as the IMF tion's shattered economy back on

The IMF had halted a second disbursement of \$3 billion because of haconcerns that President Suharto was avoiding carrying out tough structural changes to end Indonesia's worst economic crisis in 30 years.

Indonesia, in turn, said the IMF was ignoring the risk of wide social unrest if austerity measures were implemented too swiftly. Indonesia's top economic minis-

ter, Ginandjar Kartasasmita, said the two sides had agreed to disclose the results of their negotiations Wedneseconomic advisers had met with Mr. Suharto at the residential palace. "In principle, we've worked out

an agreement," Mr. Ginandjar said. "We still need to work out a number of details, and when that's finished.

Monday trading from 8,600 rupiah given.

Friday. The pact would follow the managing director, Stanley Fischer, as a step in the right direction.

ment of the stalled \$3 billion loan would observe a "period of testing" of Indonesia's commitment to reform before releasing the funds.

The IMF says the new package will work where the previous two failed. There will be "much more careful monitoring between us and the Indonesians to make sure that measures which have been committed to are undertaken," Mr. Fisher

Meanwhile, Mr. Ginandjar said Mr. Suharto had phoned the prime ministers of Singapore, Australia and Japan to report on the progress Indonesia had made in its efforts to day. He spoke after he and other top reform its economy. He said Singapore had decided to provide \$3 billion of guarantees for Indonesian letters of credit and said Malaysia would provide \$500 million.

Australia and Japan will also help with such guarantees but will wait until the agreement with the Inter-Those remarks lifted the rupiah, national Monetary Fund is signed, as the dollar fell to 8,550 rupiah in Mr. Ginandjar said. No figure was



A man waiting in line Monday in Jakarta to withdraw funds from (AP, Bloomberg) Bank Danamon, one of the banks taken over by the government. Terubo Tei, who is now on trial.

Sony Executive Who Sounded Off Gains a Top Post

TOKYO - Norio Ohga, the chairman of Sony Corp. who said last week that the Japanese economy was "on the verge of collapse" and could set off a "world recession," was named a vice chairman Monday of Japan's top business federation, the Keidanren.

"The Japanese economy is facing its most difficult time ever," Mr. Ohga, 68, said last week. "If it continues to decline, we could enter a long spiral of deflation."

Mr. Ohga, who speaks fluent English, likened Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto of Japan to Herbert Hoover, the U.S. president during the Depression in the early 1930s. He criticized Japanese politicians for their single-minded concern about what happened in their constituencies.

The president of Toyota Motor Corp., Hiroshi Okuda, also will join the Keidanren's executive board as

Mr. Ohga and Mr. Okuda will succeed Kiyoshi Kitaoka, former president of Mitsubishi Electric Corp., and Kenichi Suematsu, former chairman of Sakura Bank, whose companies have been linked to alleged bribery scandals.

The Keidanren suspended Mitsubishi Electric for three months for allegedly bribing a reputed gangster,

Very briefly:

 PT Goro, an Indonesian company controlled by President Suharto's youngest son, Hutomo Mandala Putra, will open a string of shops on government properties across the country. The minister for cooperatives, Subiakto Cakrawerdaya, said the plan was mainly aimed at heading off the threat from foreign retailers, which were recently allowed to set up their own distribution networks.

• Credit Suisse First Boston and the Salim family canceled their plan to buy into PT Bank Danamon, which was among seven Indonesian banks seized by the government Saturday for having become dependent on emergency credits. The Salim family had planned to buy 19 percent of Bank Danamon, while CS First Boston was to buy 10 percent.

 Marubeni Corp., a Japanese trading company, will invest about 5 billion yen (\$37.5 million) to lay fiber-optic cable to connect central Tokyo with nearby Ibaraki prefecture, the landfall point of its PCI trans-Pacific undersea cable to be completed in 2000.

· South Korea's finance minister, Lee Kyu Sung, ruled out any immediate economic stimulus package for the country and warned that South Korea should be fully prepared for the effects of a possible economic crisis in Japan.

• The Korea Shipbuilders' Association said orders dropped 45 percent in the first quarter from a year earlier, to 923,000 gross tons. Some shipyards have not received any orders at all this year, but operations have been normal so far because of a heavy backlog, the association said.

 Vietel Technologies, a \$20 million telecommunications joint venture between a U.S. consortium called NewTel Ltd. and a Vietnamese military company, has suspended op-erations. An executive of the Vietnamese company said the two sides had failed to agree on a business plan.

• Tata Iron & Steel Co.'s output rose 8.7 percent in the year that ended Tuesday, to 2.63 million tons, as reduced interest rates in India and increased government spending helped demand to surge, but analysts said prices had fallen about 4 percent over the year. The company is expected to report earnings within two months.

• Singapore Airlines Ltd. said its chairman, S. Dhanabalan, was stepping down to take the top position at Development Bank of Singapore. He will be replaced by Michael Fam, a member of the airline's board. AFP, Bloomberg, Remers

YEN: Hashimoto Is Set to Act

Continued from Page 1 moto said he would allow his

would make clear his shift from fiscal restraint. That initial approach, which included tion whose outcome could a sales-tax increase, is now substantially change the believed to have worsened Ja- political landscape here. pan's economic problems. "It is absolutely true that Some critics have even suggested he should resign be- the responsibility is to get the cause of his handling of the

Monday during a parliamentary committee meeting best "evaluation" of the job whether he planned to take he was doing. political responsibility' for promising people he would not increase the deficit and

strong response, Mr. Hashi-

Bad Loans Push

Taisei to Warn

Of Its First Loss

TOKYO - Taisei Corp..

burdened with bad loans and

nonperforming assets, on

Monday became the second

big construction company in

Japan's construction sector.

to a loss for the first time since

appraisal losses on its prop-

Perty holdings, 41 billion yen

on unrecoverable credits and

its listing in 1957.

future to be decided in elections in July for the upper house of Parliament, an elec-

"It is absolutely true that judgment of the people," Mr. Hashimoro said. He said that Mr. Hashimoto was asked people's vote in the upperhouse elections would be the

Mr. Hashimoto was apparently jolted into action by a warning Friday from Presithen doing the opposite. dent Bill Clinton that Japan needed to take a "bold course" to revive its economy as well as the "triple shock" that same day of drops in the stock market, the bond market and the value of the yen, which fell to a six-and-a-halfyear low against the dollar. Stocks and the yen regained strength Monday on the news that Mr. Hashimoto was tak-

ing a more forceful stance.

Mr. Hashimoto said Monday that Japan was facing its most severe economic problems since World War II and that he would remedy them a week to say it would post with "bold measures, if big losses to try to clean up its needed. Despite increasingly dire reports about the econ-

The action came only days omy, he said the country was after its rival, Shimizu Corp., not on the verge of collapse. Because a collapse of the issued its own loss warning, a move analysis said would trig- Japanese economy could lead

to a worldwide economic slowdown, there has been ger a painful restructuring in growing concern that Mr. Ha-Taisei said it would post a shimoto is taking too long and one-time loss of 125 billion yen (\$936.7 million) for the doing too little to get Japan's year that ended last Tuesday, economy growing again. Many critics said they felt pushing the parent company

that Mr. Hashimoto's statements remained too vague and his promised action too Of the loss, Taisei said 65 slow and that he continued to billion yen would be due to seem preoccupied, if not paralyzed, by feuding factions in his party. to increased loss provisions There are too many cooks

right now," said John Neuffer,

19 billion yen to streamlining a political analyst in Tokyo. Mr. Neuffer also said that nonperforming units. "We have decided to Hashimoto's "peek-a-boo, piecemeal" plans had drastically restructure our asset holdings in order to overseemed almost absurdly come tough competition and vague. Noting that Mr. Haexpand our business further." shimoto had suggested a \$120 billion plan with almost no details available so far, he

the company said. As a result of the loss, Taisei revised its group earnings estimate for the year to a loss of said, "Can you imagine any dicted a profit of 1 billion yen, country coming up with such 67 billion yen. It earlier precompared with a profit of 5.78 a big plan and not telling any billion yen the previous year. body what is in it?"

Zhu Rules Out Devaluation As Growth Slows to 7.5%

PARIS — China's economy expanded at a 7.5 percent annual rate in the first quarter, Prime Minister Zhu Rongji said Monday, slowing from an 8.2 percent growth rate in the fourth quarter of last year.

In a speech to French business leaders, Mr. Zhu pledged that growth in 1998 would reach 8 percent and vowed to keep the value of China's currency steady. Mr. Zhu said Beijing would take measures to continue

to maintain growth in the Chinese economy from now to the end of the year at 8 percent, and inflation less than 3 percent, and the Chinese currency will absolutely not be

He said China's decision not to devalue the yuan had restricted some sectors of the economy, including exports and tourism, but he pledged to enact measures to expand the economy without a currency devaluation.

He said China needed foreign investment to fuel economic growth and help support its currency.

"China is prepared to make sacrifices and muster its

efforts to develop its economy and to contribute to the stability of the Asian region. But we also need international help," he said.

French companies and entrepreneurs are welcome, and

investment by foreign companies will be "the biggest support for China," he said. China officially posted economic growth of 8.8 percent

in 1997, partly fueled by a relatively large trade surplus. But the prolonged Asian financial crisis has overshadowed its economy this year. The rate of economic growth slowed steadily in 1997, to about 8.2 percent in the fourth quarter of 1997 from 9.5 percent in the first half.

HACHETTE: Magazine Publishing's Bad Boy Gains Respect

Continued from Page 11

Grolier, a direct marketer of encyclopedias and a children's book publisher that Hachette's parent also owns.

Perhaps most significantly, Mr. Pecker has thought big about his company, as most executives are trying to do these days, using his magazines to develop additional sources of revenue, from selling Car & Driver motor oil to running a television show about women's issues.

"He understands very well how the various aspects of the publishing business come together to form a bottom line," said John Heins, chief executive of Gruner & Jahr, which publishes Family Circle and other magazines.

"His style may be very different from my style and other magazine companies, but it clearly works."

In custom publishing — through which Mr. Pecker contracts to produce a magazine for a specific company — Hachette has been churning out publications such as Trump Style, for guests of Trump properties, and magazines for Century 21, Ferrari and Philip Morris.

Hachette also plans to produce magazines for the Cadillac division of

General Motors Corp., Universal Studios and America Online Inc. lishing an uncomfortable blurring of the

Given that some consider custom pub-

lines between news and business, several

"I know he makes money on it. I guess it's smart," Mr. Brownridge said. 'It's just not our thing. I guess it makes us a little queasy.

Mr. Pecker said he was simply adapting to a changing world.
"Ten years ago, the balance between advertising revenue and circulation rev-

enue was 50-50 - today, almost 75 percent of a magazine's revenue is advertising," he said in an interview. The integrity of Mr. Pecker's various ventures has been questioned over the

years, particularly after he killed an article for Premiere on behalf of the Revion executive Ron Pereiman, then a coowner of the magazine. The article was to examine the busi-

ness dealings of the actor Sylvester Stallone, including his role in the Planet Hollywood restaurant chain. Mr. Perelman was planning a venture with the restaurant at the time. Premiere's two top editors resigned over the incident.

'It was a business decision," Mr. Pecker said. "But it was handled badly. I still feel bad about it today."

Nevertheless, there have since been instances of business involvement in editorial content that have raised eyebrows in the industry or within Hachette's magazines — when, for example, Mr. Pecker suggested putting his

publishing executives say they feel a little skittish about going down that road.
"I know he makes money on it. I friend Fran Drescher, star of the television series "The Nanny," on the cover of Premiere in March 1996 after she had already appeared on the covers of two other Hachette magazines, Elle and Mirabella. The editors, who later resigned, refused, and the cover never

appeared.
Mr. Pecker has been outspoken about what other executives may believe but would never say: that editors need to keep in touch with their advertisers' interests. But, Mr. Pecker added, his editors have total freedom.

Some of Mr. Pecker's competitors may disparage Hachette's ad-page gains against Hearst because of Mr. Pecker's reputation for essentially giving ad pages away. But, other media executives say, no one really knows what Hachette is offering advertisers behind closed doors.

Mr. Pecker allows that he is competitive. In 1995, he took out a full-page ad in several large newspapers criticizing Hearst's decision to reduce circulation while raising ad rates.

But Mr. Pecker also says he deserves some recognition for reviving the nine

"There would be 200 people without jobs and probably 2 million readers without those magazines," Mr. Pecker said. "I never got any credit for bringing something back."

Annual figures 1997

Excellent 1997:

- net profit increases by 24% to U.S.\$2,117 million
- profit per share increases by 15% to U.S.\$2.71
- shareholders' equity rises by 30% to U.S.\$22.9 billion

(in millions of dollars, except for amounts per share)	1996	1997	e,; change
Result before taxation: *)			
- insurance operations	1,288	1,506	16.9
- banking operations	1,100	1,447	31.6
Net profit	1,712	2,117	23.6
Net profit per ordinary share	2.35	2.71	15.1
Dividend per ordinary share	1.03	1.19	15.0
Total assets **)	241,174	307,588	27.5
Shareholders' equity **)	17,538	22.865	30.4

*) Results: U.S.\$1.00 = NLG 1.9395 (average exchange rate) ••) Assets and shareholders' equity: U.S.\$1.00 = NLG 2.017 (exchange rate on 31 December 1997)

Good increases in net profit (23.6%), profit per share (15.1%), dividend (15.0%) and shareholders' equity (30.4%).

Result from the insurance operations showed a significant increase, result from the banking operations was considerably higher despite the influence of the Asia crisis in

Addition of U.S.\$284 million to provisions for future expenditure (including euro and millennium), of which approximately U.S.\$103 million for the insurance operations and approximately U.S.\$181 million for the banking operations.

Total assets under management increased by 36.6% to U.S.\$167 billion. Despite the crisis in Asia, the total addition to Value adjustments to receivables of the banking operations and the Fund for general banking risks decreased by 8.8% to U.S.\$531 million.

The accounting principles will be changed from 1998 onwards to achieve greater conformity with the international accounting principles. Depending on market conditions it is expected that, based on past experience, net profit will increase by approximately U.S.\$0.5 billion as a result of this change. Consequently, the return on shareholders' equity will increase by approximately 2 percentage-points. It is intended to leave the dividend pay-out ratio unchanged at approximately 43%.



The annual report appears on 21 April 1998 and can be obtained at the following address: ING Group, P.O. Box 810, 1000 AV Ampterdum, The Netherlands, Telephone: (+31) 20 541 54 71, fax: (+31) 20 541 54 51, e-mail: inggroup@inggroup.com

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Chinese Announce **Positive Drug Tests**

Chinese authorities said Monday they caught and punished 24 athletes for drugs offenses last year.

The official Xinhua press agency said 10 athletes had tested positive for banned substances during the national games in Shanghai in October. Among them was Xiong Qiying, who won the women's long jump gold medal with a 7.01-meter leap, Xinhua said.

Xinhua quoted a statement from the Chinese Olympic Committee that of 3,540 tests carried out last year, including 1,893 out-of-competition checks, 21 were positive. Two other athletes were caught cheating in tests, and a third was found handing out banned drugs.
"All these 24 athletes and their

coaches have been punished according to international and domestic rules," the statement said. Thirteen offenders were from track and field, seven from weightlifting and one each from wrestling.

boxing, cycling and boating. A total

of 18 were women. Westwood Wins in U.S.

GOLF Lee Westwood, a 24-year old Briton, won his first American PGA Tour title Sunday, closing with a 3-under 69 for a three-stroke victory over Steve Flesch in the Freeport-McDermott Classic in New Orleans. Westwood, who ended last season with victories in Europe, Japan and Australia, finished with a 15-under 273 total to win \$306,000.

Shark Banned for Biting

RUGBY UNION Wickus Van Heerden, a South African flank forward, was suspended for 18 months Monday for biting an opponent on the arm. It was the minimum ban under the Super 12 competition rules but still one of the longest for foul play in rugby union history.

Van Heerden, 31, plays for Coastal Sharks, a team based on the Natal provincial side. He was banned until September 1999 after he told a disciplinary panel that he bit Richard Harry, a New South Wales prop forward, during a Super 12 match in Sydney on Sunday.

Van Heerden's clean record was taken into account, but his lawyer said he hoped to appeal against the

PSV Rehires Robson

former England national team manager, will begin a second spell as head coach at PSV Eindhoven at the start of next season.

"We wanted him because he has been a champion wherever he has gone," a spokesman for the Dutch club said Monday. "His quality is not up for question."

Robson, 65, is currently director of signings at Barcelona. He will start at PSV on a one-year contract, succeeding Dick Advocaat, who is to become the Glasgow Rangers coach next season.



Yevgeni Kafelnikov of Russia returning serve to Andre Agassi of the United States in their singles Monday.

Tale of a Cyclist in Need of a Victory

By Samuel Abt International Herald Tribune

RUGES, Belgium - Frederic Moncassin was not serene. Before a major bicycle race the riders are supposed to be, if not at one of the seven levels of serenity, at least calm and purposeful, but there was Moncassin, sitting in the front seat of a Gan team car, looking strained while he let particularly raucous music from the tape deck wash over him. Serene? No.

"I'm feeling O.K.," the 29-year-old Frenchman said before the Tour of Flanders started Sunday in Bruges. "Looking for an exploit?" he echoed. "Better than last year? We'll have to wait to answer that" wait to answer that."

He smiled affably because he really is friendly and cooperative even when, like at this moment, the inadvertent knife was being twisted one more time. In the previous Tour of Flanders, he finished second. The only way he could do better was to finish first, of course, and it has been a long time since he did that. In terms of victory, Moncassin is zero for 1998, which is at sistent since he was zero for 1997.

The sprinter's last victory was recorded in July 1996 at the Tour de France stage into Bordeaux. Not that he hasn't been close since: Six times last year he finished second, most notably by 4 millimeters (a hair cross-sectioned) in a Tour stage. Twice already in this young season he has been second. Only three weeks ago he was third in the Milan-San Remo classic, his face twisted in dismay as he glanced left just before the finish line and saw that once again the victory was not his.

Some of this misfortune is not simply bad luck. The Telekom team from Germany has been riding against Moncassin since last June, when he lost his temper after a tumultuous sprint and head-butted one of Telekom's riders, Rolf Aldag, breaking his nose.

Unlike most sprinters, Moncassin does not rely on a leadout man to position him for the final sprint but uses his bicycle-handling skills — his almost-acrobatic talent — to stay right behind a major rival and then try to pass him. But in the Tour de France the next month, Telekom's big men made sure Moncassin did not latch onto the rear wheel of the team's sprinter, Erik Zabel, and find himself perfectly situated for the last 150 meters.

Telekom was not the only team angry with Moncassin. The Mapei armada was also unwilling to do him any favors after its star sprinter, Tom Steels, was evicted from the Tour for throwing his water bottle at Moncassin because he thought the Frenchman had interfered with him. As it happened, Moncassin was not the

villain, but try telling that to the judge.
"An exploit?" Moncassin was repeating now in the Tour of Flanders staging area. "We'll have to see."

There was, alas, nothing to see. Flash forward three hours to the Molenberg hill, the fourth of 15 in the race. Fifteen riders had gone on the attack in the early moments and began building a lead of more than two minutes while the pack was traveling on coastal roads just out of sight of the North Sea. The wind from over the dunes was so strong that fields of young trees were bent permanently inland at a 45-degree angle. In that wind, most of the 194 riders thought it better to

wait for attrition than to counterattack. The Molenberg is a typical Tour of Flanders hill. Set between pastures where horses canter, it rises less than a kilometer but steeply, and two-thirds of its length is paved with jarring cobblestones. It is a bit more than two meters

wide and slushy with mud at both sides. The couple of thousand fans pressing inward on the climb make the road even narrower. If a rider falls, and a few did, he can block everybody behind him. The Tour of Flanders is what the riders call a nervous race, one that demands

constant attention; a dreamy moment

and the action is gone up ahead, not

often to be overtaken: Up the hill came the remnants of the roup of first attackers, now halved. Their faces were dark with the dust of earlier hills and some riders were clearly in distress after 151 of the race's 277 kilometers (172 miles). A couple of minutes behind them came the main

chasers and Moncassin passed unnoticed in the swarm. He was not having an exceptional day, he admitted later. The first 200 kilometers, he said, went fine but then he ran out of steam. The year before, on his way to second place, he was in a lead group of three just about where he now

found himself struggling.

There was no hateful second place this time. Moncassin finished 36th, 3 minutes and 3 seconds behind the win ner, Johan Museeuw, a Belgian with Mapei and a son of Flanders. The victory established Museeuw as a favorite next Sunday in the esteemed Paris-Ronbaix

race, which he won two years ago. Moncassin has only come close in Paris-Roubaix. Last year he was half of a two-man attack that seemed to be comfortably in front as the finish at the velodrome in Roubaix approached. For a sprinter, this should have been ideal.

The two were caught by six others, however, and in the final lap on the track, the heart seemed to go out of Moncassin. First one, then two, then everybody passed him. He looked astonished to finish eighth of eight.

TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 1998 Swedes Edge Slovaks For Davis Cup Victory

By Christopher Clarey International Herald Tribune

BRATISLAVA, Slovak Republic --Magnus Gustaffson was interviewing Sweden's victorious doubles team for Swedish television. But one day later, he was the one fielding questions and glaring into the camera lens after a crucial match.

The path from court to commentary box has never been long in the clubby world of professional tennis, but this was reversing the customary order.

The Swedes, defending Davis Cup champions, trailed the Slovaks, 2-0, on Friday. Such early leads usually prove insurmountable. Since the World Group began in 1981, there have been only eight instances of a team clambering out of such a hole.

But the Swedes, with their depth and camaraderie, have been the game's best climbers, doing it in 1992, 1994, 1995 and again on Sunday after Magnus Norman and Gustaffson reversed fortune in the reverse singles.

'I don't know if I can take any more of these; my heart is too weak," said Carl-Axel Hageskog, the Swedish cap-tain, after his team's 3-2 victory.

Mikael Tillstrom, the Swede who was scheduled to play singles in the final rubber, said: "It was crazy again, but it all worked out for the best."

But, Tillstrom said, he started feeling stiffness in his back during and after his doubles victory Saturday. He then told his team that his availability was in doubt. Or at least that was his version. Some Slovaks found the timing of Tillstrom's injury suspiciously convenient, in the light of his uneven singles play Friday. The Swedish coaches insisted this was no ploy and considering Gustaffson's recent fitness reports, it was

tempting to believe them.

The Swedes arrived in Bratislava without their top two singles players: Jonas Bjorkman and Thomas Enqvist. Plan B was for Norman, a gifted young clay courter, and Gustaffson, 31, to play singles. But shortly after landing in Bratislava, Gustaffson started running a high fever. It was time for Plan C, which ultimately led to Plan D when Gustaffson nervously agreed to replace Tillstrom.

'I think I was more scared last night because I didn't count on playing at all here," Gustaffson said Sunday. "I was really feeling awful all week. I got tired after 10 minutes, but I practiced for 45 yesterday and when I woke up this morning, the doctor looked me over and said there was no problem." His op-ponent was Dominik Hrbaty, a talented 20-year-old. It is for moments like these that the Davis Cup is worth preserving despite a cluttered tennis calendar. In normal tour conditions, Gustaffson versus Hrbaty would be about as difficult to ignore as a third-division soccer match but when the players walked on court shortly after Norman had beaten Karol Kucera in five sets to make thematch score 2-2, each was a potential national hero.

Despite the chair-banging, drumthumping backbeat provided by Hrbaty's fellow Slovaks, Gustaffson's idiosyncratic, emphatic forehand would make the difference: 6-2,5-7,7-5,7-6(7-4). When he came off the court, flusheded and giddy, his teammates formed a circle and tossed him into the air.

Another substitute would make good Monday in Brussels. Christophe Van Garsse of Belgium beat Sjeng Schalken of the Netherlands in the final, 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 3-6, 6-3. Van Garsse led two sets to one when play was suspended because of darkness on Sunday.

In 1996, after knee surgery, doctors told Van Garsse to find another way to make a good living. He stubbornly refused, and after winning the decisive rubber in a qualifying match against France in September as a late replacement, he has now given Belgium its first World Group victory.

Like many teams in this round, the Dutch were not at full strength, but while Richard Krajicek's absence for the recent birth of his first child can be attributed to coincidence, the rash of injured and missing stars last weekend is also a product of dubious scheduling. Playing in the week following a major (championship like the Lipton is simply asking for trouble.

"A two-week gap would definitely be better," Hageskog said.

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The only major surprise was Zimbabwe's upset of Australia. Zimbabweans will play in Italy in the second round. The Spaniards will be host to the Swiss. The Germans will be host to the Swedes, and the Belgians will play in either Russia or the United States.

Those two nations were scheduled to complete their rain-delayed match Monday in Stone Mountain, Georgia. The Americans and Russians were tied at 2-2 after Yevgeni Kafelnikov beat Andre Agassi, 6-3, 6-0, 7-6 (7-3), on Monday, ending Agassi's 16-match winning streak in Davis Cup singles.

Ball Boys Cause Soccer Feud

RIO DE JANEIRO — Marcelinho Carioca, a Corinthians midfielder. was involved in an altercation with a ball boy after his team drew, 1-1, with the local rival Palmeiras.

Marcelinho accused the ball boys of using delaying tactics during the second half of the Sao Paulo state championship match Sunday after Palmeiras had taken the lead with a the ball boys to help his team. goal by midfielder Alex. Corinthians salvaged a draw with an 89th minute goal by Didi.

Although the match was played in the neutral Morumbi stadium, Pal-

meiras was officially the home team and provided the ball boys, who were wearing the club's green colors.

"I told my players that these ball boys could cause trouble," said Vanderley Luxemburgo, the Corinthians "This shouldn't happen in a

Luis Felipe Scolari, the Palmeiras coach, denied that he had instructed

"It seems that I'm to blame for everything bad that happens at Palmeiras," said the coach, who is frequently criticized for the rugged play

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W—Nagy, 1-0. L—Dickson, 0-1. Sv—M. Jackson (3). HRs—Cleveland, Justice (1). Anaheim, Salmon (2), Walbeck (1). en, Corsi (6), Edgersley (8), Gordon (9) and Varifiels: Johnson, Timilin (7), B. Wells (8), Slocumb (9) and D. Wilson. W—Saberhogen, 1-0. L—Johnson, 0-1. HRs—Boston, Garciapama (2), M.Vaughn (2), Sealtie, Segul (4), G. Hill (3). 189 011 622 2-9 11 1 200 189 112 0-7 12 1 16 izmings 20, Skurton (7), M. Rivers (8), Lloyd (9). Netson (9) and Posada; Oguist, Groom (6). TJ.Mathews (6). Fetters (8). Moh-ler (9), Taylor (10) and Hinch, W—Netson, 1-

0, L.—Mottler, 0-1, HRs.—New York, Curils (1), Posado (1). Oakland, Glambi (1). NATIONAL LEAGUE (2). Pithsburgh 986 980 980 98 95 1 New York 298 982 952-7 13 1 Shvc. Taboka (7) and Kandoll-Yoshif. McAltchael (8). Rojes (9) and A. Castiffo. W—Yoshif. 1-0. L—Silva. 0-1. HR—New York Alforzo (1). Las Angeles 980 980 188—1 6 9 Cincingti 990 990 900—0 2 1 I

Les Angeles 900 000 188—1 6 0
Cinclesti 900 800 000—0 2 1
R.Mariinez, Rodinsky (9) and Puzzar Remilinger. Belindo (7) and Taubensee, (Fordyce 99). W.—R. Mariinez, 1-1. V.
L.—Remilinger. 0-2. S.—Rodinsky (1). A
HR—Los Angeles, Mondesi (1). Eidred, A. Reyes (7), C. Fax (8), D. Jones (9) and Matheny, L.Hernander, Alfonseca (9) and C. Johnson, W.-A. Reyes, 1-0, L.-L. Hemondez, 1-1. Sv—D. Jones (1). HRs.—Milwoukee, Ving (1), Burnitz (3), Grissom (1). Florida, Floyd (4). San Diego 208 000 015—8 8 8 St. Logis 600 216 840—7 12 2 K.Brawn, Boehringer (2), Hoffman (3), Micel (7) and C.Hernandez Stofflemyre,

(1), HR—San Diego, Camiral (2). Celorade 697 018 666—2 10 0 Housten 659 000 01x—6 6 0 Kile, Veres (7) and J. Reed: Reynolds, Magnante (8), B. Wogner (9) and Eusobio. W—Reynolds, 1-0. L—Kile, 1-1. HRs—Co-Jorado, J. Reed (1). Houston, Bigglo (1).

Montred 000 991 807—2 6 9
Chicago 180 301 201—7 8 0 Chicage 190 301 201-7 8 0 Moore, M. Batista (4), Bennett (6), Urbina (8) and M. Hubbard: Tapani, Van Ryn (6), Telemaco (7) and Servais, W-Taponi, 1-1.

L.—Moore, 0-1. HRs.—Montreal, Grudzielane (1). Chicago, H. Radriguez (2), Servats (1). Sen Frencisco 100 801 000—2 7 0 Artzona 300 000 00x—2 8 0 **ICE HOCKEY** NHL STANDINGS ried: C-Smirrion 24 (Fieury, Faincis) (pp.) C-Cassels 13 (Iginia) Third Period: A ien 17 (Timba, Masshall) (pp.), 6, A-Greei Green 17 (Trnka, Marshall) (pp), 6, A-Green 18 (Drny, Marha) Overfilme; None, Shats on goal: C- 6-12-12-5—35. A: 11-9-13-3—36. Goalies: C-Roleson, A-Askey.

BASKETBALL **NBA** STANDINGS

Amonto 28 (Suler, Johnson) 2. New York, Sundatorn 18 (Gretzky, Kovaley) (pp), Third Period: None. Overlinns: 3. New York, Goneau 2 (Sundations, Stevens) Shels on Oriende 21 22 23 19— 85 Washington 15 32 19 21— 88 C: Anderson 11-28 1-2 25, Ho, Grunt 7-143 3 17; W: Webber 11-21 0-2 22, Strickland 8-17 Chrifton 191 21 22 23 19-85 nu 2 (Sundstrom, Stevens) Shots on New York 45-5-3—17. C. 12-12-7ton 56 (Webber 12), Assists—Or-First Petriod: N.J.-Niedermayer 13 (Bodger, Morrison) (pp). Second Period: N.J.-Elios 17 (Andreychult, Source) 3, Phoenib. Rosming 9 (Numaninen. Tiechiek). (pp). 4. Phoenib. Rosmics 23 (Diduct.

W L T 37 24 16 34 30 11 31 37 8

(pp). 4. Phoenix. Reenick: 23. (Diduct, Isbister) Third Period: N.J.-Ellos 18 (Sykora. Brodeur) (pp). Stats on geat: Phoenix 4-4-15. N.J.- 9-7-7-23. Goalles: Phoenix. 2-2 19; D: B.Williams 10-20 6-8 26, Dumars 8-14 2-2 23. Rebounds—Lakers 51 (O'Negi 12), Detroil 59 (Hill 16). Assists—Laters 16 (Ver Exel 4), Detroil 23 (Hill 12). Cippers Roomson 19-18 1-3 26, Assum 19-174-5 24 C: Kemp 7-12 11-1725, Person 7-14 0-0 16, Rebounds—Cippers 50 (Wright 15), Cleveland 49 (Ilgavakus 10), Assists—Cippers 26 (Mariin, Richardson 6), Muller 7 (Jovanovski, Lindsoy) 4, F-Svehia 8, (en), Shafs on good: P- 11-10-13-34, F- 8-10-

Miller 4 10 9-9 18, Mullim 6-12 2-21 6, A.Davis 4-8 B-10 16, McKey 3-16 0-0 16. Rebeards - Milleraukee 40 (Hill 9), Indiana 45 (A.Davis 9). Assists Mil

L: Henderson 8-17 4-8 20, Mutembo 8-13 2-4 Rebounds—Minnesoto 5 to 44 (Mutombo 11). As 20 24 27 38—109 21 22 23 28— 94 Heusteri 27 27 28 28 44 C. Lordan 18-31 44 40, Pippen 8-179 3-5 20: H: Drexter 8-17 1-1 20, Elie 6-15 4-4 18. Rebesorts-Chicago 45 (Rodman 12), Houston 51 (Olialwon 12), Assists-Chicago 33 (Pippen, Rodman 8), Houston 29 (Baridey

Philadelphia 30 33 30 23—116 T: Trent 10-165-525, Christie 6-165-720; P: Iverson 14-25 7-7 36. Colemon 8-12 44 21.

25 29 24 21— 99 13 17 24 29— 93 U: Misione 10-16 5-5 25, Homecek 6-14 5-6 17; V: Receives 11-19 8-10 30, Abdur-Rothim 9-16 8-9 26. Rebounds—Utch 48 (Osterlog 9), Vancouver 46 (Abdur-Rothim 9). Assistis--Ututh 30 (Stockton 8), Vencouver 20

Reeves. Edwards 4).

New York.

12 24 26 29—92

Bastan

30 29 23 20—102

N.Y.-Cummings 11-181-2 ZI, Houston 7-15

6-7 2b; B: Wolkers 10-18 0-24 Mercer 9-182
211. Rabotands—New York 45 (Commings

11). Boston 51 (Knight 11). Assists—New York 18 (Ward 5), Boston 29 (Knight 7). Defias 21 28 24 24 — 99
Socramento 25 28 33 27 — 105
D: Finley 9-12 5-6 23, Shirichand 7-12 3-4 17;
S: Thorpe 9-15 4-5 22, Robinson 9-15 1-3 22.
Rebounds — Doffas 47 (Muniscepp 14),
Socramento 36 (Thorpe 15) Assists — Outlies
14 (Finley 9), Socramento 30 (Johnson 7).

S: Boter 8-13 5-7 21. Payton 4-18 5-6 14. Hawkins 4-9 6-7 14: D: Alexander 10-15 1-2 25. Goldwire 8-21 1-1 20. Rebounds—Seattle

FREEPORT-McDerMott

7,116-yard, par-72 English Tura Golf and 68-69-71-71-279 Mark Wiebe, U.S. 64-75-69-71—279 72-66-70-71—279 Glen Day, U.S. Steve Lowery, U.S. Duffy Weldott, U.S.

Bob Esles, U.S. WORLD RANKINGS

1. Tiger Woods, U.S., 12.71 points ave 2. Emie Els. South Africa, 12.32 olia. 10.75 3. Greg Norman, Australia, 1 4. Davis Love 3d. U.S., 9.38), Masashi Ozaki, Japan, 8.05 12. Vij**or** Singh, Fiji. 6.46 13. Mark O'Meara, U.S., 6.42

CRICKET WEST HIDRS VS. ERGLAI 4TH ONE-DAY INTERNATIO

et Indiese 150 for six SOCCER

AFRICAN CHAMPIONS CUP

Al Ahli, Egypt, 2 Coffee FC. Ethiopia, 2 3-3 oggregate away godis rule. Makowi 1

Petro won 11-3 on egg Vita Club. DR Congo, 2 Eagle Cement, Ni geria, 0 Eagle Cement wan 4-3 on aggreg ASEC Abidion, Ivory Coast, 4 Rocking Club Bobo-Dioulesso, Burking Faso, T

Sahel won 4-2 on aggregate.

Togo, 2 FC 105 won 9-5 on aggregate. CS Constantine, Algeria, 0 AS Door 1904 v Douanes won 2-1 on aggregate. Catonsport. Cameroon, 4 Tourbillion, Chad, 1 Catonsport won 4-1 on aggregate. Hearts of Ook, Ghama, 1 Djollion, Med, 0 Hearts of Oak won 1-0 on aggregate.

SPANIESH FIRST DIVISION Tenerije (), Resi Zaragaza () Valencia 4 Atletico Madrid () STRANSMICS: Barcelona 64 points: Real Madrid 56: Real Sociedad, Maltona 52: Colta Vigo, Athletic Bilton 51; Real Bells 50; Valeniadolid 43: Departivo Caruna 42: Real Za-

Milian 5% Lazio 55; AS Roma, Udinese 49.

MAJOR LEAGUE S Dallas 2 San Jose 2 STANDINGS: Eastern Conference: D.C.; Ints: Columbus 6: Miami 4: NY-NJ 0: New England & Tampa Bay O. We os Angeles 7 points: Chicago & Dallas as City 3: Colorado 1; San Jose 0,

TENNIS DAVIS CUP

FIRST ROUND SELCIUM 1, NETHERLANDS 2 she Van Garsse, Rela ijeng Schatter. 6-4-6-4-3-6-3-6-5-3.

ED STATES 2, RUS ikov, Russia del Andre Agassi U.S. 6-3.6-0.7-6 (7-3). SLOVAKIA 2, SWEDEN 3 US Gustuisson, Sweden, dei. Don k Hirbarty, Slovatda, 6-2, 5-7, 7-5, 7-6 (7-4). AMERICAS ZONE

GROUP ONE

SECOND ROUND

GROUP TWO FIRST ROUND Uruguay 3. Paraguay 2 Peru 5. Jamaica 0 GROUP ONE

Uzbekiston 3, South Korea 1 he fifth match was canceler

TRANSITIONS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

DAKLAND—Pul RHP Brod Rigby on 15-day
displied six rethroactive to March 26. Recoiled
INF Jorge Velandia from Edmonton, PCL.
SEATTLE—Bought contract of RHP 88
Swiff from Tocoma, PCL Put OF Rich America
on 15-day disabled list, Designated RHP
Com Smith for assignment.
TAMPA BAY—Collmed RHP Eddie Gellford
off waivers and assigned him to Durham. II

off waivers and assigned him to Durham, IL.
NATIONAL LEAGUE NATIONAL LEAGUE
CINCHNINT-Signed RHP Jeff Show to 3year confluct extension. Agreed to terms with
C Eddie Toubensee on 2-year confluct extension. Put 18 Sean Casey on 15-day disobled list, Chiled up RHP Todd Writiams from
indigrapolits. IL Optioned INF Damion Jacksent in Indianapolis. PHILADELPHIA—Put RHP Mark Portugal on 15-day disabled list, Recalled RHP Wayne Gomes from Scranfon, IL 57. LOUIS—Announced C-INF Danny Sheaf

PHILADELPHIA-Activated F Kebu Stewart

10-day contract. FOOTBALL NATIONAL POOTBALL LEAGUE GREEN BAY—Signed DE Eric Curry. MEW ENGLAND—Re-signed LB Marry Jaone, RB Marrio Grier, DL Chad Eafor and PITTSBURGH-Signed LB Levon Kirkland 4-year contract edension.

ST. LOUIS—Agreed to terms with OL, John onnery on 2-year contract.

SAM FRANCISCO—Fired Bronco Hinek.

HOCKET NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE
ANAMEJA—Signed Riv Teemu Seignne to
year contract extension. BUFFALO—Agreed to terms with D Richard nehlik on m Chicogo of IHL. CAROLINA-Signed F Greg Kochler, C Croig

MacDonald and RW Shane Wills. Assigned RW Shane Wills to New Haver, AHL, Recafied D Mike Ruchski from New Ha LOS ANGELES — Assigned RW Vitali Yoch-meney to Long Beach, IHL Fredericton, AHJ. rison from Albany, AHL.
PHILADELPHIA—Returned G New Little

and RW Past Healey to Philadelphia AHL
PHOERIC—Assigned RW Jacelyn Lemieux
to Springfield, AHL SAN JOSE

Kemiyoky, AHL TAMPA BAY-Reinstoled C Daymond Langtow. Recoiled RW Corey Spring from Adjaundock, AHL and F Brent Peterson from Milwaukee, IHL. Reassigned C Steve Kelly I

from St. John's, AHL COLLEGE FAIRFIELD-Named Tim O'Toole men's basketbaf coach. coach, following next see

Paul Pierce will forego his senior season to make himself eligible for the NSA draft. NEW CRLEAM TEXAS-AMI Penders, men's baskerball coords.
TEXAS AAAI—Named Metrin Walkins men's

صكنا من الاعل

صحدا من الاعل

SPORTS

of Mayor Gholam-Hossen k.
rges has brought into the open deconservatives brewing at lent Mohammed Khalam a

some of the media said Mone n on Saturday went beyond a national dispute among

estigation into a city many estigation miles a city many based political analyst says issue which is part of the based in Iran's government. message through the judge

urges, pointing to the convige trges, pointing to the confidence top aides on graft charges at questioned the legality of the ring to charges of torture,

of Mr. Khatami's, was dean on graft and mismanagent : mayor to be held withing urther investigation. nat his case would go to hat.

This is a national issue which is pan of the battle between the right and the left.

ince the election. Said Age .mrouz, a moderate mont

imed at imposing pressure, Iohammed Khatami and wat zeh Hashemi, a pro-Klutas se daugmer of former Presida ally Iran News.

rliament defended the dense avor should not be above the the case has been proven the nished free from any factors. in Air Qassemzadeh told la

posed a major lest for # adopted a nonconfrontations e opponents, who still wide

ved, we could see a full-blow

he decision saying Mr. Kas. from his tail cell

Misinterpret Detention aid Sunday night it hoped that lention of framen wrestlers be hen the unletes entered their

part in a tournament. The New!

ports team : visit the United! on 1979, was detained for two printed as it entered the count ort in Change They were e.

his procedure is not misin nd interest in promoting such

id Cup of Freestyle Wrestling

administration official, who

inn for the State Department aw required such procedure mainly tourists who are no . Iraq. Libya and Sudan Mr nd the procedures would be e United States and Iran have

orth America

Merca interest

New 1 3 63 of

1 of Mayor Japanese on the Mound Highlight Have the Edge on Cubans ical Split Have the Edge on Cubans

second straight year, the New York Mets, not the El Niño robbed Irabu of his New York Yankees, featured a game for a New York team, as Yoshii followed Takashi Kashiwada in beating the Yankees' ballyhooed Hideki Irabu into the victory

Yoshii, a 13-year veteran of the Japanese major leagues, accomplished the feat Sunday in his major-league debut by pitching seven shutout innings against the Pittsburgh Pirates in a Mets victory.

more than 70 reporters from not much major-league suctory with the little things: throwing first-pitch strikes to 20 of the 25 batters he faced and striking out seven in seven in-

manager, said of Yoshii: "I don't think the other clubhouse is going to talk about the great stuff like they might have when they first saw Hideo Nomo's forkball, or even Irabu on a good night. I think they will talk about his ability to be a pitcher. getting ahead with four different pitches: his fastball, his has yet to pitch a full season in slider, his change-up and his

He threw them all early in the count. He also threw them late baby, who won his majorin the count to put hitters

"Nonplussed" has never been an adjective associated and the initial flash of Yoshii with Irabu in his short, mer- suggest is that Japanese pitchcurial Yankee career. Now, not ers land stateside with more only has the right-hander been polish, having exchanged one

McGwire on a day when pitch-

ing ruled the National League.

McGwire's bid to become

the only NL player to homer in

his first five games ended in the

St. Louis Cardinals' 8-7 loss to

NL ROUNDUP

the San Diego Padres. He went

1-for-4 with a walk, striking out

twice against the sinkerballing

runs in the top of the ninth in-

Andy Benes and Arizona made

The expansion Diamond-

backs won for the first time

ever, stopping a five-game los-ing streak with victory over San

Francisco.
"I just happened to be the

guy who was out there and got

lucky on a few not-so-well-ex-

ecuted pitches," said Benes,

who overcame two home runs

Browers 5, Martins 2 Florida

by Bill Mueller.

ning to win at St. Louis.

San Diego rallied for five

ondbacks 3, Giants 2

Brown.

history.

l'antage Point/ CLAIRE SMITH

debut Sunday because the Yanthe first Japanese pitcher to win kees revised their rotation after game was rained out Friday night in Oakland. Irabu will pitch Tuesday at Seattle.

This season, for the Yankees. Japanese pitchers are passé; Cuban defectors, as in the newly signed Orlando (El Duque) Hernandez, are in.

El Duque's brother Livan. was voted the most valuable player of the 1997 World Series for the champion Florida Mar-Nonplussed by the swirl of fectors have tasted freedom but lins. Several other Cuban de-

The highly touted Rene seasons. Ariel Prieto (14-21) scouting. "The best team they couldn't make a pitching-poor probably faced was the U.S. A's learn this spring. The Gi-Bobby Valentine, the Mets ants pray that the off-injured Osvaldo Fernandez — 10-17 in en't playing amateurs.' two seasons - starts paying dividends on a three-year, \$3.2 million contract.

Livan Hernandez may be the real deal. The youngster who signed with the Marlins for \$4.5 million for four years is 10-3 in 19 major-league games. But he the majors. Nor has Will Rolando Arrojo, the Tampa Bay Devil Rays' \$7 million bonus league debut last week.

What the struggles of most the victim of his own pique, but major league for another.

Padres' Brown Trips McGwire

Kevin Brown shut out Mark before the game, then got an-

the loss.

received its World Series rings

other reminder that this is an

The Marlins dropped their fifth straight game with Livan

Hernandez, the World Series

Most Valuable Player, taking

Houston fans and hitters made it

a rough homecoming for Darryl

Kile, who won 19 games for

the Astros last season and then

signed a \$24 million, three-year

contract with Colorado, was

booed from the moment he

came on the field for warmups

Kile walked the bases loaded

hit a three-run double.

with two outs in the second in-

ning, and pitcher Shane Reyn-

Craig Biggio followed with a

two-run homer for a 5-0 lead.

Cube 7, Expos 2 Henry Rodriguez and Scott Servais hit

consecutive home runs, and

Chicago won its fifth straight

game, matching its longest win-

at the Astrodome.

Astros 6, Rockies 2 The

entirely new year.

"If you go into the Tokyo Dome when it's packed, pitching against the Yomiuri Giants, it's a little more hoopla than today." Valentine said. "A lot

more, actually." Not so for the Cubans. They must not only deal with culture shock, exchanging \$8 monthly salaries for streets paved with gold, but they must also face competition unlike any they faced with the Cuban national

"And although very gifted and very talented, the level of competition they faced up until the point they defected was subsaid Omar Minaya, the Mets' assistant general manager Arocha is only 18-17 after four and director of international Olympic team, college players. The Japanese guys, they wer-

> The maturity of the competition, the Western influence on Japanese hall and the watering down of the American game via expansion have closed the gap between East and West and made the exchange rate manageable for Nomo and maybe for Yoshii and Irabu. But the chasm between Cuban and American baseball may be as immense as the nations' political differences.

"To say they did it in amateur baseball and it's going to carry Cubans, the success of Nomo over, that's not always necessarily the case," said Minaya. "El Duque is very good. But for

people to think that he is going to have the numbers he had in

inning at Wrigley Field.

Dodgers 1, Reds 0 Ramon

Martinez dominated with his

Cincinnati. Martinez, who

pitched a no-hitter in 1995,

walked a batter with two outs in

the seventh and gave up a single

to Eddie Taubensee with two

In games reported in late edi-

Phillies 2, Braves 1 Curt

Schilling was nearly untouch-

able, striking out 15 as Phil-

adelphia beat Greg Maddux and

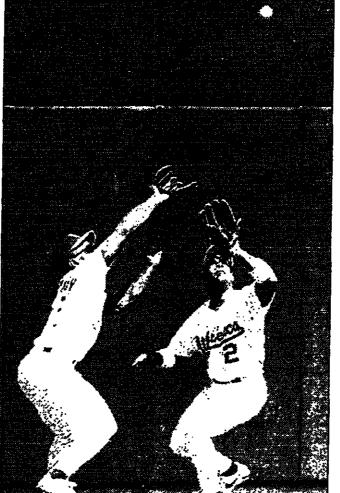
batters. The 32-year-old rookie

Mets 7, Pirates 0 Masato

outs in the eighth.

Shea Stadium.

ning streak in the last two sea- struck out seven and walked



Oakland outfielders Rickey Henderson, left, and Jason Mc-Donald going for a pop-up in the game against the Yankees.

Struggling Yankees Finally Win No. 1

Although their owner was

thousands of miles away, George Steinbrenner's presence could be felt in the gloomy dugout as the New York Yankees struggled for their first victory of the season.

But after beginning Sunday as Rodriguez, traded from the the American League's only Expos to the Cubs in the off- winless team, baseball's highestseason, homered in the seventh salaried squad carved out victory

AL ROUNDUP

No. 1 by beating the Oakland fastball, retiring the first 20 bat-ters in leading Los Angeles past Athletics, 9-7, in 10 innings. It was not easy, however. New York blew two late-inning leads and lost their closing pitcher, Mariano Rivera, to an injury before it was over.

"I felt more nervous out there got the victory in relief.

starting a season 0-4 for the first straight. time since 1973, Steinbrenner's didn't make the trip west, Steinbrenner had criticized his team Yoshii won in his major league after the Yankees lost their season opener at Anabeim.

debut, stopping Pittsburgh on three hits for seven innings at On Sunday, after the Yankees blew a two-run lead in the Yoshii, signed by New York in January after 13 seasons in ninth, Chuck Knoblauch and Derek Jeter drove in runs in the Japan, retired the first seven 10th inning.

Indians 6, Angela 4 David

Nagy pitched 71/3 strong innings as Cleveland completed a sweep in Anaheim to remain the only unbeaten team in the majors.

Red Sox 10, Mariners 5 In Seattle, Bret Saberhagen earned his first victory since Sept. 26. 1995. The two-time Cy Young winner missed all of 1996 while recovering from shoulder sur-gery in the off-season, and made six starts for Boston last year.

David Segui hit his fourth home run of the season for Seattle. Devil Rays 5, White Sox 0 In St.

Petersburg, Florida, Wilson Alvarez bounced back from a disappointing opening-day performance as Tampa Bay matched the best start for an expansion team through six games. Orioles 6, Tigers 3 in Bal-

today than I did in the World timore, Mike Mussina pitched Series," said Jeff Nelson, who seven strong innings and Rafael Palmeiro drove in three runs as New York was in danger of the Orioles won their fifth

Twins 10, Royals 1 In Minfirst year as owner. Although he neapolis, Eric Milton, the most promising of four prospects the Twins received when they traded Chuck Knoblauch to the Yankees in February, pitched six scoreless innings in his majorleague debut. He allowed six singles.

Rangers 6, Blue Jays 5 Rusty Greer doubled home the goahead run in the eighth as vis-Justice went 3-for-3 with his iting Texas overcame three first home run, and Charles Toronto homers.

Chicago Looks Bullish As Playoffs Approach

The Associated Press

With only two weeks left in the regular season, the Chicago Bulls look like a team ready to start the postseason. Even without Luc Longley and Toni Kukoc, the Bulls overpowered the fal-

NBA ROUNDUP

tering Houston Rockets, 109-94, Sunday to extend their winning streak to 12 games - the longest in the National Basketball Association this season. "We have a lot of turmoil on this

team, but when we get on the court everything is fine," Dennis Rodman said after Chicago improved the league's best record to 58-17.

Michael Jordan scored 40 points for the Bulls for the 11th time this season. Scottie Pippen added 20 points, eight assists and five blocked shots.

Rodman had 12 rebounds and a season-high eight assists and Bill Wennington, making only his third start of

the year because of a foot injury to Kukoc, added 14. "That is the best team in the NBA," said Mario Elie of Houston. "Jordan was tremendous and his concentration

level was simply phenomenal."

Jordan said, "Rhythm is everything, that and cohesion. That's what we

SuperSonies 87, Nuggets 83 In Denver, the SuperSonies had to work hard to win their 57th game.

Vin Baker scored 21 points, including two crucial baskets off offensive rebounds in the final minute, as Seattle kept the Nuggets at nine victories.

Jazz 99, Grizzlies 93 In Vancouver, Utah took a 14-point lead into the final quarter before getting sloppy and allowing the Grizzlies to pull within four points with 25.6 seconds to play. Pacers 93, Bucks 92 In Indianapolis,

the Pacers were not assured of victory until Michael Curry's 20-foot (6-meter) jumper hit the outside of the rim and bounced away as time expired.

"It's discouraging to play like this going into the playoffs," said Larry Bird, the Indiana coach.

Cavaliers 94, Clippers 93 In Cleveland, Los Angeles got back six points of a seven-point deficit in the final 30 seconds, but Cleveland managed to run out the clock.

Timberwolves 97, Hawks 96 Stephon Marbury scored five of his nine points in the final 1:30, including a lay-up with 23.4 seconds remaining to give visiting

Minnesota the victory. Celtics 102, Knicks 92 In Boston, the Celtics opened a 28-point lead just four minutes into the second quarter and led by at least 10 the rest of the way.

New York lost ground to the teams pursuing it in the race for a playoff spot. "Instead of getting tougher, we roll over," said Jeff Van Gundy, the Knicks" coach. "We're a fragile tearn."

76ers 116, Raptors 104 In Philadelphia, Allen Iverson finished with 36 points, nine rebounds, eight assists, four steals and no turnovers as the 76ers beat

l'oronto. Kings 105, Mayericks 99 Sacramento. snapped a 12-game losing streak at home as Chris Robinson, a seldom-used guard, scored a career-high 22 points in

place of Mitch Richmond. In games reported in late editions, Monday:

Lakers 105, Pistons 103 Los Angeles came back from an early 18-point deficit to win in overtime in Detroit.

Wizards 88, Magic 85 In Washington. Rod Strickland had his third tripledouble of the season - 21 points, 13 assists and 11 rebounds - and Chris Webber collected 22 points and 12 rebounds to beat Orlando.

Senators' Goalie Outduels The Sabres' Hasek, 1-0

Damian Rhodes, the Ottawa goalkeeper, stole the spotlight from Dominik Hasek

"Now I can say that I did beat him." Rhodes said after making 22 saves to lead the Senators to a 1-0 victory over the Sabres. "It's more of a boost for me

NHL ROUNDUP

to finally beat Buffalo. It's a little monkey off my back to beat them and know

It was Rhodes' fifth shutout of the season and his first career victory over the Sabres. And it came against the league's shutout king. Hasek has 13 and is threatening to break Tony Esposito's

post-expansion record of 15. "They were everywhere." Hasek said. "They covered every open space on the ice. I don't remember a team

playing so well defensively." Daniel Alfredsson scored when he deflected a shot from the point past

Hasek in the second period. Hasek stopped 32 other Ottawa shots. ngers 2, Blackhawks 1 The New

York Rangers won in Chicago on Daniel Goneau's goal 1:24 into over-time but were eliminated from the playoffs when Ottawa beat Buffalo. Goneau's goal, which ended an eightgame winless streak for the Rangers,

was set up by Niklas Sundstrom. The Rangers, outshot by 31-17, got a strong effort from Mike Richter in goal. It is the first time the Rangers have missed the playoffs since 1993 and just

the third time since 1978. Tony Amonte scored his 200th career goal for Chicago, which has lost four of its last five. Devils 3, Coyotes 2 Patrik Elias scored his second goal of the game early in the third period as New Jersey snapped a

season-high three-game losing streak. Martin Brodeur made only 13 saves in winning his 43d game of the season, four shy of Bernie Parent's single-sea-son NHL record set 23 years ago.

Panthers 3, Penguins 1 Kirk Muller scored the game-winner with 4:30 left, and Kirk McLean had 33 saves as Florida beat visiting Pittsburgh. But the victory, Florida's fifth in its last six games, could not prevent the Panthers from being eliminated from the playoffs.

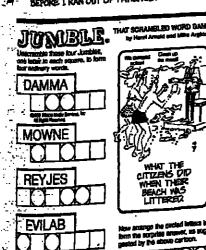
Flames 3, Mighty Ducks 3 In Anaheim, Travis Green scored twice during

a 2:57 span of the third period to erase a two-goal deficit for the Mighty Ducks. Teemu Selanne tied his own singleseason club record with his 51st goal.

DENNIS THE MENACE



IT WAS A GOOD DAY. HE RAN OUT OF ENERGY BEFORE I RAN OUT OF PATIENCE."



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PEANUTS









I ONLY SHED ONE HAIR THIS AFTERNOON

BEETLE BAILEY

ONE OF MY

ANCESTORS

HIM IN THE

CIVIL WAR

PAID SOMEONE TO SERVE FOR



THAT'S TERRIBLE!

IMMORAL!





HERE .. I BROUGHT HIM HOME







BLONDIE















WIZARD of ID

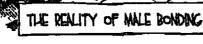






NON SEQUITUR











ART BUCHWALD

A Little Off the Top

Jones case is written, it will be decided that one of the most

important factors was hair. I didn't realize this until I

Paula's lawsuit thrown was out, and Jerry Goelzer said "Every woman Starr subpoenaed was conmore cemed about her hair than

her legal rights. I had three customers last week who pleaded, 'Jerry, make me look like the grand jury will

believe me. "I gave each of them a soft texture and a warm blond color. One called me the next lem. She didn't know what to night and said a federal marshal had asked for a date."

I was impressed. "You can't have justice if you don't have a trustworthy hairdo."

Jerry said, "That's how people decide guilt or innocence. Monica Lewinsky was

Delacroix Celebration

New York Times Service PARIS - As France gathers itself for a burst of observances for the 200th anniversary of the birth of Eugene Delacroix (1798-1863), the Grand Palais will open an exhibition Friday with 154 paintings by the archetypal painter, writer and lithographer of the Romantic

The exhibition, "Delacroix, Les Dernieres Annees: 1850-1863," is organized in sections and built around such themes as hunting, religion, Morocco and history.

WASHINGTON—When in real hot water until she the history of the Paula changed hair stylists at the Watergate.

A customer getting a sham-poo said. "Someone really did a job on Linda Tripp. was seated in a unisex beauty Everyone thought the mike parlor after was buried in her blow dry. But when she changed stylists we all started looking for the

tape under her elbow."

Jerry said, "Every woman called in front of the grand jury knew her ordeal would take place either on the courtroom steps or her front lawn. They were aware that if they looked too sexy they would be crit-icized by the TV-viewing public. At the same time, if they appeared too dowdy, no one would believe the president gave them a bad time."

The manicure lady said, "That was Paula Jones's probdo with her hair, or even how to part it, and that is why the judge threw the case out."
I said, "I beard the reason

for it is that she had so many people advising her on what to do with her tresses she could never get it straight. She should not have changed lawyers — she should have changed beauty salons."

Kathleen Willey's name

"Do you think she's telling the truth?" I asked.

Jerry said, "She looked truthful on '60 Minutes, but if she goes on Barbara Walters I

would take a bit off the top." Even though Jones lost big. I think she has dramatized once and for all the importance of the right hairdo when artacking the president of the United States. They have a saying at Pepperdine Law School: "If someone combs her own hair before facing a Starr grand jury, she has a fool for a hairdresser.

The Mysterious Mitterrand as Secret Father

New York Times Service DARIS — In death as in life. Francois Mitterrand fascinates

By Alan Riding

Of some 200 books in print covering his political career and his two presidential terms from 1981 to 1995, 50 are biographies, many of them published since his death in not sated the public's appetite for insights into his complex, contra-dictory, secretive and intellectual personality.

Mitterrand savored the aura of mystery that surrounded him. He fathered a daughter out of wedlock in the mid-1970s, but France only learned of her in late 1994 when the aged and ailing president, apparently eager to recognize her pub-licly before his death, was photographed with her. He also left orders for the young woman, Mazarine Pingeot, and her mother to join his widow and their two sons at his funeral. They did so, to the

surprise of many French. Now it is the turn of Pingeot, 23. to reveal a new facet of Mitterrand — as a secret father — with the publication this month of her first novel, called "A First Novel." She insists that it is neither autobiography nor roman à clef, yet the poignant relationship between the book's heroine, Agathe, and her father seems too real to have been invented. And appropriately, Pingeot has dedicated the novel to her

late father. "People write their lives, always to some extent transformed," she said in a telephone interview.
"When one has a lot of experience, I'm sure one can write fiction with- and possessive; he admired her.' out having to start with basic material. But for a first novel, it's Mitterrand enchanted by a bright simpler to take from the experience and articulate adolescent daughter of life. It's more authentic in a

known first and foremost as a crature. But Pingeot said that he writer, "and by my fifth novel this may be possible," she said. But for small. "He was there all the time," the moment at least, if her book was she said. "It could seem paradox- research, he falls for an older wom- have reviewed the book, and she, some day. I don't know when."

announced on the front page of Le Monde, if her photograph is on the cover of Le Nouvel Observateur and if she was interviewed Sunday night on "Public." a popular television program, it is simply a measure of the public's interest in the love child of a former president.

In the novel itself, it is also her descriptions of Agathe's publisher father that are being most closely January 1996. Yet even these have studied for clues to how Pingeot remembers her own father. And the answer is, with love and admir-

> "He was old, but in his political and moral approach to life, he was the youngest person she had ever

'It's my name. I have a right to do as I like without having to disguise it.'

known," Pingeot writes. And of Agathe's parents, she writes, They were longtime lovers, unmarried, each living their own lives, but loving each other more than anything.

Perhaps most revealing is the description of Agathe's closeness to her father: "Father and daughter formed an invincible pair capable of intimidating not only outsiders but also family members. Their complicity needed no words; their silence sufficed. They were a single being.

But father also doted on daughter. "He loved her lightness, her excesses, her outrageous beauty," Pingeot writes of her fictional double. "He watched her, jealous

Certainly, it is easy to imagine who was attending one of France's top lycées and with whom he could Unsurprisingly, she wants to be discuss politics, philosophy and lit-



not only intellectually."
In "A First Novel," the father figure appears whenever Agathe alters her view on life. needs him, but he is not central to the story, which is set among the jeunesse dorče, or golden youth, of the Left Bank in Paris. Like Pingeot, Agathe and her boyfriend, Victor, are hard working and hard playing students at the elite Ecole Normale Superieure. But when

cal, but he was completely there, an. And while he is away, Agathe suffers a riding accident (as Pingeot did when she was 12) that

Betty Mialet, Pingeot's editor at Julliard, has compared the book to "Bonjour Tristesse," which Francoise Sagan published in 1954 at the age of 18. But she also hears echoes of Simone de Beauvoir and Marguerite Yourcenar in Pingeot's writing. Josyane Savigneau of Le Victor goes to London to pursue Monde is so far the only critic to Paris that she initiated. "I'll be back

too, draws parallels with de Beauvoir and Yourcenar. The novel displays "ambitions rarely aspired to by young writers today," Savigneau wrote, "a complex narrative voice, tracing many characters from a variety of vantage points."

For Pingeot, who is now doing postgraduate philosophy studies, publication of her first fiction is also an important step in her attempt to assert her own identity. Until she was nearly 20, she re-called, she lived inside "a bubble" in which only her closest friends shared the secret of her father's identity. But after Paris-Match published photographs of her with Minerrand, she said, she became the target of paparazzi. "It was awful, humiliating, unbearable," she said.

When she came to publishing her first novel, she even considered using a pseudonym, but she rejected the idea, concluding that it would only encourage the press to try to discover the real author. 'Anyway, it's my name," she said. "I have a right to do as I like without having to disguise it. I don't see why I shouldn't live normally with my own name. I have no need to hide it. And if I write, why not use it? It's also my identity.'

She also has good reason to think that her father would be proud of his daughter's book. And at a time that Mitterrand's place in history is still very much to be defined, she has reciprocated his pride by portraying him, indirectly at least, as a loving and loyal father. "I have dedicated the book to him because

it is the most beautiful way of per-petuating his memory," she said. Still, while willing to assume the risks of writing fiction, Pingeot is not ready to face what she fears will be a new wave of harassment by paparazzi. She has therefore left France and is writing her second novel in a country that her editors will not disclose. "I have gone into 'exile' to flee all that," she said cheerfully in a telephone call to

PEOPLE

A LL aboard! There are plans for another Titanic. A Swissacross the letter recently while sorting through her papers. "I'm only 5-foot-5, but with this letter I'm 8 feet tall," Ortiz replica of the luxury liner and send it across the Atlantic in said. April 2002, the 90th anniversary of the liner's sinking. "It cannot sink," said Walter Navratil, president of the Swiss development company White Star Line Ltd. He said the oilfueled steamer would make a round trip from Southampton, England, to New York. The ship will pause in the North Atlantic 560 miles (900 kilometers) off Newfoundland, where more than 1,500 passengers died on April 15, 1912.

Berlin remembered the conductor Herbert von Karajan on what would have been his 90th birthday, naming a street after the maestro who led the city's philharmonic orchestra for nearly 35 years. Karajan led the Berlin Philharmonic from 1955 until he stepped down in April 1989 for health reasons. He died three months later.

A thank-you note Mother Teresa wrote in 1981 but forgot to mail has finally arrived. And it couldn't have come to Gilbert Ortiz at a better time. The same day last week that the 70-year-old Ortiz learned his kidneys were failing and he had an aneurysm on his aorta, he received the inspirational letter postmarked Calcutta. It was a typed letter, dated Nov. 28, 1981, thanking him for a donation. Mother Teresa died in September last year, and a Missionaries of Charity nun came

More than a year after ABC News announced his successor. oone Arledge is ready to cede control of the network's news division, The New Yorker reported. Arledge will probably retain his title as chairman of ABC News, but he has agreed to give up decision-making authority in June to his deputy,

Saved by the Barber of Seville

LONDON — A British opera singer in a "skinhead" costume had to belt out an aria to prove his identity when challenged in the street by two angry black men.

Ouentin Haves was dressed to look like a white racis thug, The Times reported Monday, when he slipped out during rehearsals to make a phone call. There he was confronted by the two men, who took him

for a member of a far-right group. He tried to explain that he was dressed for a performance of Janacek's "The Cunning Little Vixen. "But it was only when he burst into Figaro's aria from "The Barber of Seville" that his story was accepted.

David Westin, the president of ABC News. ABC says it is talking with Shelby Coffey 3d, the former editor of the Los Angeles Times, about a senior management position at ABC News. Coffey would reportedly be working closely with Westin, perhaps as a deputy.

Pete Seeger brought Paul Robeson's memory to life at a tribute to the activist musician, performing his signature tune "Ol' Man River" for a crowd at Columbia University in New York City. Fans who attended also honored Robeson with musical performances and political debate, while authors, actors and journalists recalled the black-listed performer and civil rights activist. Robeson was born in Princeton. New Jersey, on April 9, 1898. He died in 1976. More than 150 events are planned worldwide in celebration of his

Ronald Reagan has been memorialized with a larger-thanlife bronze statue at the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City. The statue, by the sculptor Glenna Goodacre, depicts Reagan in denim garb, with a pair of gloves flopping out of his back pocket and extending his hand in greeting. Reagan's daughter, Maureen, said the statute was "very Ronald Reagan." The former president, who is suffering from Alzheimer's disease, did not artend the ceremony at the 37th annual Western Heritage Awards.



CHEERLEADERS - Rosie O'Donnell, left, and Madonna whooping it up at the Kids Choice Awards.





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